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# LONG BEACH

## *DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE*



# PRELIMINARY DRAFT

January 15, 2002

## STRATEGIC PLAN

January 2002

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## INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Plan contains five key elements. These key elements are:

**Core values**, or qualities, that are most important to the community, and will guide the Department in serving the community.

**Mission**, defining the overall purpose of the Department

**Goals**, providing views of the community and Department to be achieved in the future

**Strategies**, establishing the approach to making each of the goals a reality

**Indicators of Success**, defining how progress in achieving each goal will be measured

## CORE VALUES

Core values adopted by the Department provide the foundation for this Strategic Plan. These core values reflect the things that are most important to the Community and the Department, and guide the priorities and activities of the Department. These core values are:

- **Community Service** – We are here to serve the needs of the Community and its citizens, providing the best service and facilities possible, in a professional, customer friendly, efficient, and positive manner
- **Accessibility** – There is convenient and easy access to parks, facilities, and services for all Long Beach residents
- **Inclusivity** – People of diverse ages, ethnic origins, abilities, genders, and income levels feel welcome in Long Beach parks, beaches, facilities, and recreation programs

- **Equity** – Parks, programs, facilities, and services are equitably distributed throughout the Community, strengthening Long Beach's neighborhoods, and benefiting all residents
- **Diversity** – People of diverse interests and cultures are served through an array of places, programs, and services that meet their varied needs
- **Environmental Stewards** – protect and conserve the environment
- **Play and Celebration** – Believe fun adds value to life and celebration builds community
- **Personal Development** – Committed to learning and improving personal abilities and skills
- **Professional Growth** – Committed to improving professional knowledge and abilities
- **Lifelong Learning** – Committed to an attitude and approach of learning
- **Healthy Lifestyles** – Advocate and model healthy living

## MISSION

***We create community and enhance the quality of life in Long Beach through people, places, programs, and partnerships***

Elements of this mission include:

- **Strengthening community image and sense of place** – creating a positive identity for the City and its



neighborhoods through parks and natural places

- ***Supporting economic development*** – provide parks, beaches, waterways, and programs that enhance quality of life and support continuing economic success
- ***Strengthening safety and security*** – providing constructive outlets, and forums for community interaction
- ***Promoting health and wellness*** – facilitating recreation and physical activity
- ***Fostering human development*** – providing opportunities for lifelong learning
- ***Increasing cultural unity*** – celebrating cultural heritage and diversity through events and programs resulting in greater understanding and respect among the citizens of Long Beach
- ***Protecting environmental resources*** – acting as an environmental steward for the City
- ***Facilitating community problem solving*** – providing facilities and programs for positive interaction
- ***Providing recreational experiences*** – creating fun and exercise, and promoting skill development

## **GOALS**

The Department has developed and adopted eight goals, or views of the Community and Department in the future. These goals are:

***Goal 1:*** Meet Community Parks and Open Space Needs

***Goal 2:*** Meet Community Recreational Facility Needs

***Goal 3:*** Provide safe, well-maintained recreational facilities

***Goal 4:*** Meet Lifetime Recreational Needs

***Goal 5:*** Preserve Environmental, Cultural, and Historical Resources

***Goal 6:*** Ensure beaches and waterways are accessible and provide a positive experience and image

***Goal 7:*** Provide safe, state-of-the-art, well maintained, and financially stable marinas and amenities

***Goal 8:*** Facilitate and encourage productive service to the Community through the Department's management philosophy, structure, culture, and employees

Each of these goals, and strategies for accomplishing them, is discussed in the chapters of the Strategic Plan.

## **STRATEGIES**

A series of strategies have been developed to accomplish each of the goals. Each of these strategies requires some change in priority or approach. Some require additional investment in parkland and in improving or building new facilities. Other strategies require changes in how things are accomplished, including changes in processes.

Some strategies will require changes in the organizational structure of the Department, including changes in roles and responsibilities or units and individuals. Changing management policies and practices will be required to implement some strategies, which may include changing such things as reward systems, or the relationship between management and labor.



The most difficult strategies to implement will be those that require people to change. These changes will include upgrading Department employee's skills and abilities. It will also include changing the attitudes, values, beliefs, and culture of the organization.

Specific strategies to accomplish each goal are discussed in the chapters of the Strategic Plan.

## **INDICATORS OF SUCCESS**

As strategies are implemented progress toward each goal should be achieved. To measure this progress several indicators of success have been adopted for each goal. The information for these indicators will be collected and reviewed periodically to determine if adequate progress is being made toward the established goal. If necessary, strategies will be enhanced, revised, or completely changed to ensure adequate progress is achieved.



## **Goal 1: Meet Community Parks and Open Space Needs**

Parks are a key contributor to the quality of life in a community. Parks provide opportunities for a community's citizens to escape urban life to reflect, recreate, play, and reconnect with nature. Parks also provide a unique setting for individuals to interact, build relationships, and develop the sense of commonality that is the foundation of community.

The adequacy of a community's park space is often reflected in other indicators of community health, including crime rates, property values, and the rate of home ownership. Communities with too little park space are more likely to experience higher levels of crime. Without the opportunities to burn off energy provided by parks other less positive outlets are often found.

The amount of park space also contributes positively to property values and home ownership rates in a community. Parks and related amenities are one of the key factors many people consider when looking to purchase a home or to continue to live in a neighborhood.

The leadership of the City of Long Beach recognized the importance of the City's neighborhoods and environment in adopting the City's future vision as part of the Strategic Plan.

### **Long Beach Strategic Plan Vision**

***Long Beach will be a community of neighborhoods focused on youth and education, with safety and economic opportunity for all, and a responsive, accountable government, in a healthy, green environment.***

*Source: Long Beach Strategic Plan 2010, Published January, 2001*

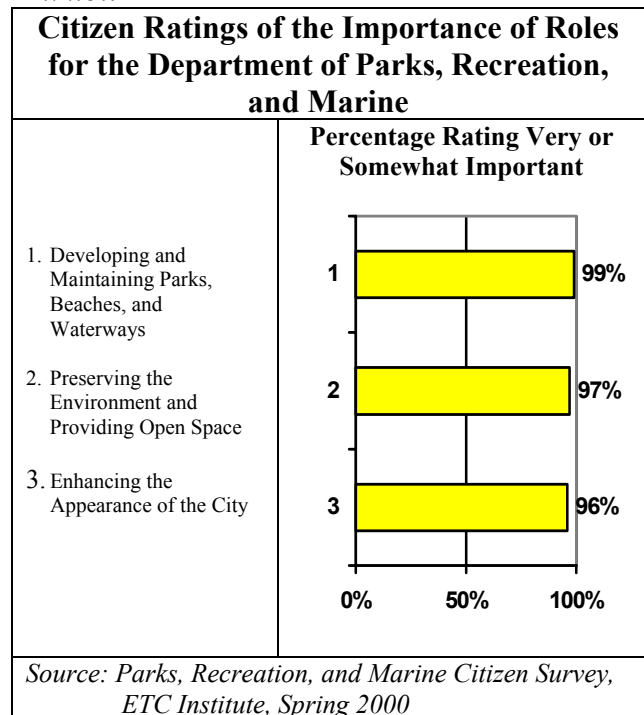
In interviews conducted as part of the development of this strategic plan Long Beach City Council members discussed the importance of parks and open spaces in the City. They also

stated they considered expanding and improving the City's park system as a priority.

### **Parks, Open Spaces, And The City's Appearance Are Important To The Residents Of Long Beach**

The following exhibit shows the vast majority of Long Beach's residents feel parks, open space and the City's appearance are important. Nearly all residents surveyed felt developing and maintaining parks, beaches, and waterways was an important role for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine, with 99 percent rating it as very or somewhat important.

*Exhibit 1*



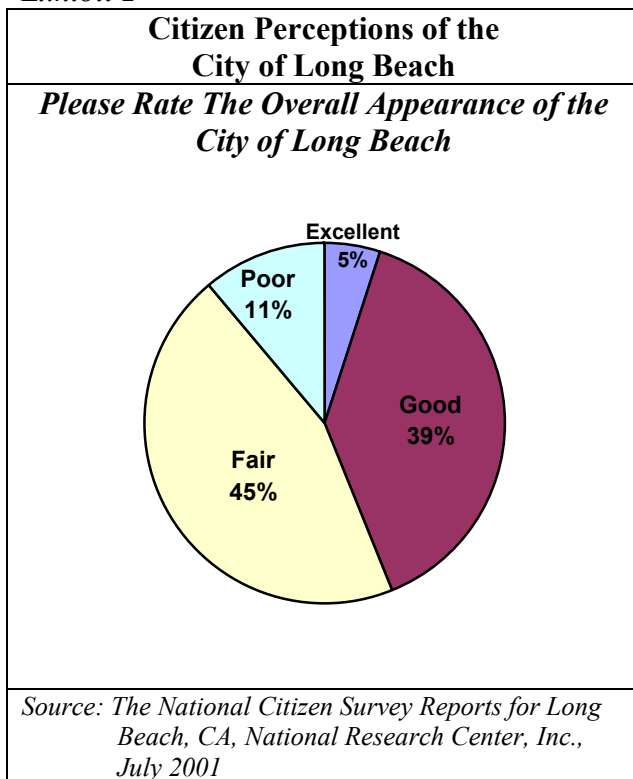
Nearly as many residents felt the Department's roles in preserving the environment and providing open space, and enhancing the appearance of the City were important, with 97 percent and 96 percent respectively rating these as either very or somewhat important.



### **Long Beach Residents Rating of the City's Appearance**

While most Long Beach citizens feel the appearance of the City is important, a smaller percentage are satisfied with that appearance. As the following exhibit shows, 44 percent of residents surveyed rated the City's appearance as either excellent or good, while 56 percent rated it as either fair or poor.

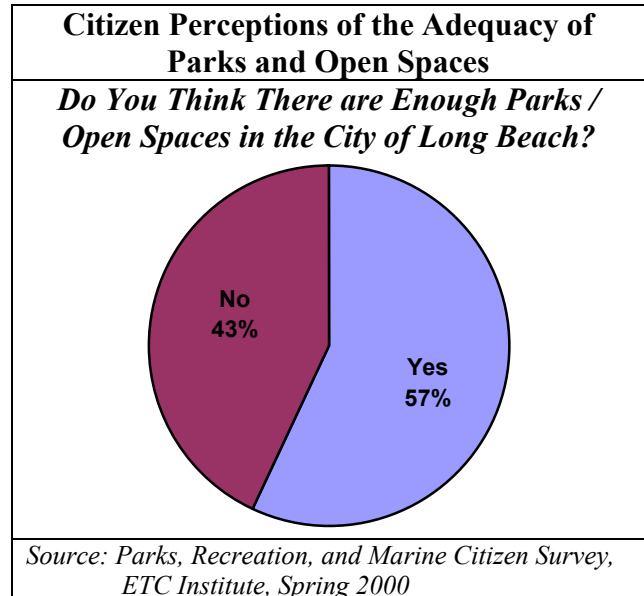
*Exhibit 2*



### **Many Long Beach Residents Feel the City Lacks Adequate Parks and Open Space**

While a majority of the City's residents are satisfied with the amount of parks and open spaces in Long Beach, a large number are not. As the following exhibit shows, 57 percent of residents surveyed thought the City had enough parks and open spaces. However, 43 percent did not think the City had enough.

*Exhibit 3*

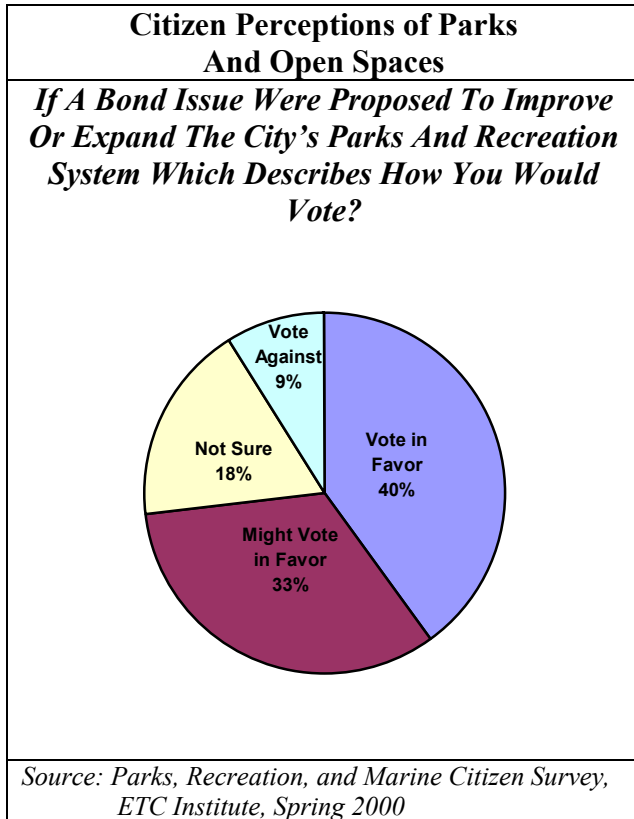


The level of the dissatisfaction with the amount of parks and open spaces is reflected in the degree to which the residents would be willing to support a tax and additional spending to expand or improve the City's parks and recreation system.

As the following exhibit shows, only 9 percent of residents surveyed said they would vote against a bond measure to improve or expand the City's parks and recreation system. Forty percent would vote in favor, 33 percent might vote in favor, and 18 percent were unsure.



*Exhibit 4*



Given current anti-tax sentiment among citizens in general, and Long Beach residents in particular, this shows a substantial level of support.

### **Long Beach's Parks and Recreation Areas**

The City of Long Beach has a substantial parks and recreational space system. This includes 94 parks encompassing 1,672 acres. Parks are defined as tracts of land that are accessible to or benefiting the general public through preserving natural areas or promoting mental and physical health of the community through recreational, cultural, or relaxation pursuits. The City's beach areas are considered as park space.

The following exhibit shows these parks by type, including the number of each type and total number of acres by type.

*Exhibit 5*

Long Beach Parks by Type		
Type of Park	Number	Acres
Mini Parks	22	21
Neighborhood Parks	19	147
Community Parks	13	464
Regional Parks	1	401
Greenway Parks	9	71
Special Use Parks	29	321
Beaches	1	247
Total Parks	94	1,672

Each of these types of parks is defined as follows:

- ✓ **Mini Parks** – are small parks serving residents within one-eighth mile. They are used to address limited, isolated, or unique needs. Mini parks are generally less than 2 acres in size, and may include seating areas, picnic tables, and playground equipment.
- ✓ **Neighborhood Parks** – are the basic unit of the parks system and serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. Intended to serve residents within one-quarter mile in high population density areas, and one-half mile in low population density area. Neighborhood parks may include recreation fields, courts and rinks, picnic areas, and playgrounds.
- ✓ **Community Parks** – serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks focusing on community recreation including sports fields, and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are intended to serve residents within a one-mile radius.
- ✓ **Regional Parks** – serve a broader purpose than community parks. Their purpose is to meet community based recreational needs as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Regional parks are intended to serve



residents within a five-mile radius. In Long Beach El Dorado Park and the Beach area are considered regional parks.

- ✓ **Greenway Parks** – are used to tie the park system components together to form a continuous park environment. In Long Beach greenway parks are largely undeveloped ribbons of green space.
- ✓ **Beaches** – Long Beach has approximately 6.5 linear miles of beach

comprising approximately 247 acres. Although owned by the State, the City has responsibility for operating and maintaining the beach and beach facilities. An estimated 7.5 million people visits the beaches annually.

The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's parks and beaches:



**Exhibit 6**

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**  
**All City Parks and Beaches**



Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas  
(C) = Community Park, (N) = Neighborhood Park, (M) = Mini Park, (G) = Greenway

**Long Beach Specialty Facilities**

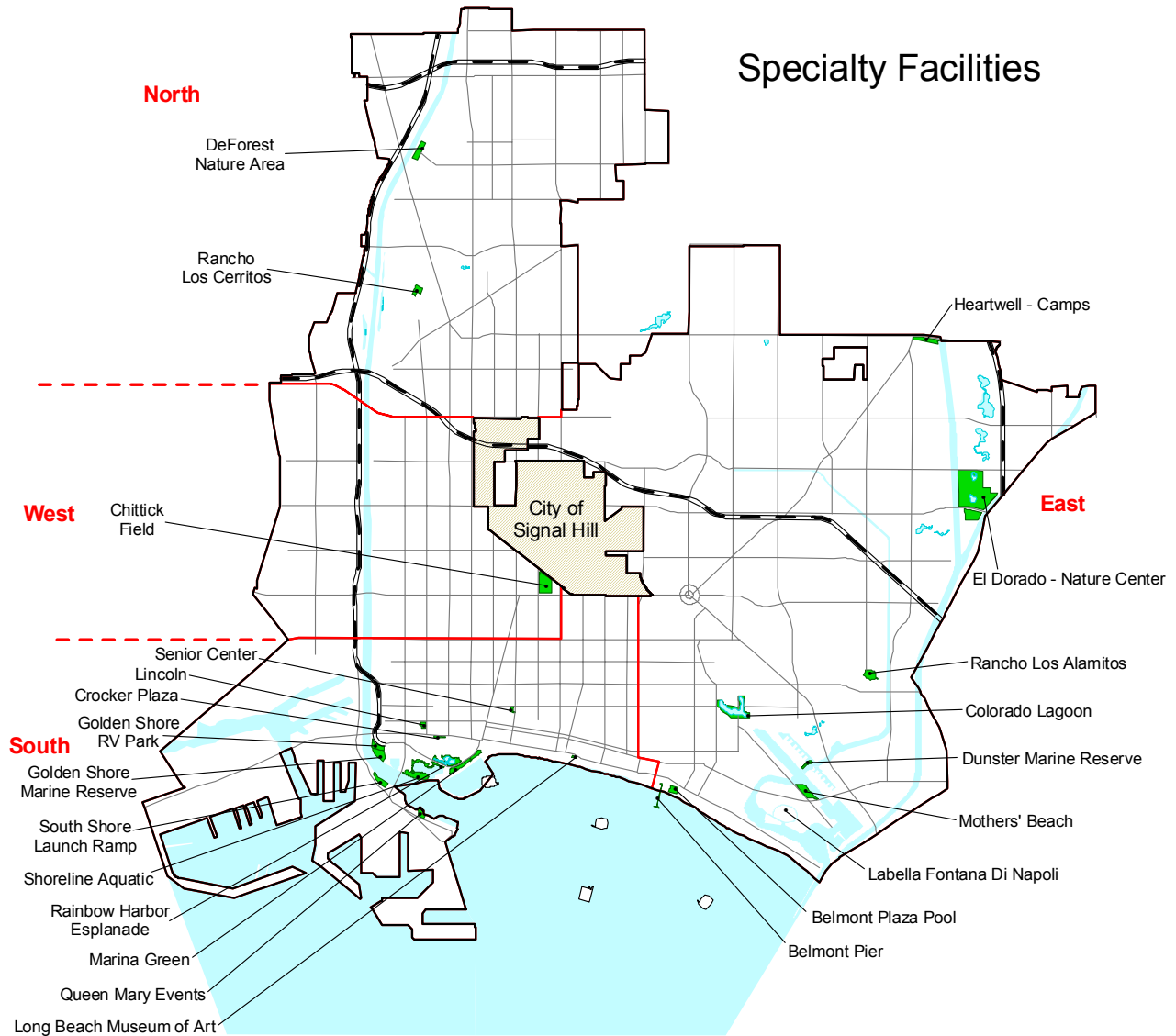
In addition to parks, the City has a number of Specialty Facilities that provide recreational and leisure opportunities. These include a riverfront recreation vehicle campground; two historic ranchos, the Long Beach Museum of Art, two marine biological preserves; two special events

parks (Queen Mary and Rainbow Lagoon); the park at Colorado Lagoon; Shoreline, Santa Cruz and Victory parks; and the El Dorado Nature Center Park and trail. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's specialty facilities:



**Exhibit 7**

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**  
**Specialty Facilities**



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Additional Long Beach Recreation Areas**

The City also has recreation areas in addition to parks and specialty facilities. These include water recreation areas, and golf courses. Each of these recreation areas are defined as follows:

- ✓ **Water Recreation Areas** – Long Beach has 373 acres of water recreation areas. These include five public boat launches, the Alamitos Bay, and Marine Stadium. These areas are used by a wide variety of watercraft such as powerboats, jet skis, sailboats, windsurfers, skulls, catamarans, and kayaks.



- ✓ **Golf Courses** – Long Beach owns five golf courses: Heartwell, El Dorado, Recreation, Recreation South, and Skylinks. Four of these courses are 18 hole and one is a 9 hole, executive course. Each is maintained and operated by a private contractor.

The following exhibit shows the type, number, and acres of other recreation areas:

*Exhibit 8*

<b>Other Recreation Areas by Type</b>		
<b><i>Type of Area</i></b>	<b><i>Number</i></b>	<b><i>Acres</i></b>
Water Recreation Areas	2	373
Golf Courses	5	568
Total	7	941
<i>Note: Water Recreation Areas include Alamitos Bay and Downtown Marina water surface areas. Does not include acres in San Pedro bay or beach areas.</i>		

The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's golf courses and water recreation areas:



*Exhibit 9*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**  
***Golf Courses and Water Recreation Areas***



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

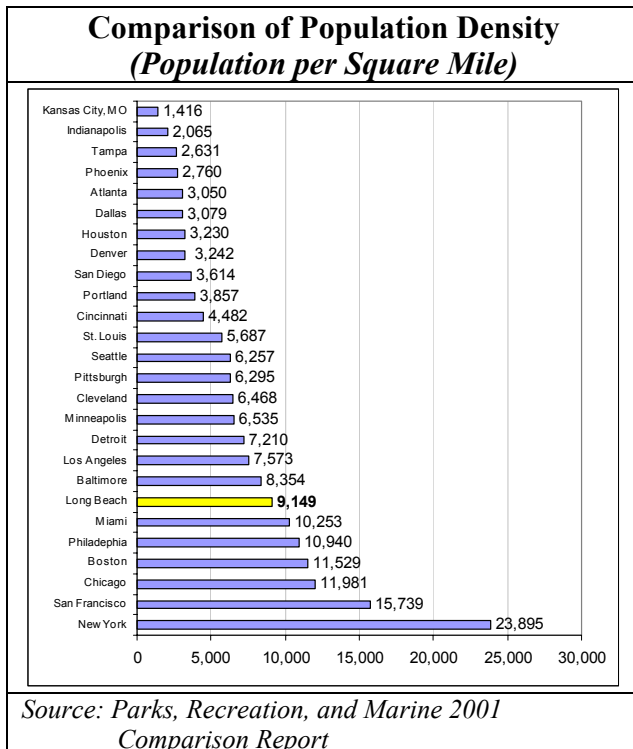


## LONG BEACH POPULATION DENSITY

Residents may not think of Long Beach as a densely populated urban city. However, Long Beach has a population density that is greater than many other cities regarded as being densely urban.

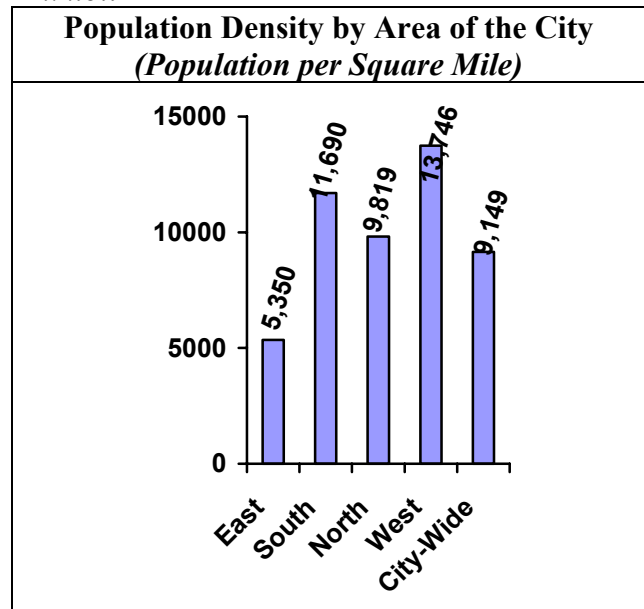
As the following exhibit shows the population density in Long Beach is 9,149 persons per square mile, which is than the density of many cities including Baltimore, Detroit, and Los Angeles.

*Exhibit 10*



Long Beach has areas that are very dense, and others that are less dense. As the following exhibit shows, the West, South and North areas of the City are very dense with 11,690, 13,746, and 9,819 residents per square mile. The East area of the City is far less dense, with only 5,360 residents per square mile.

*Exhibit 11*



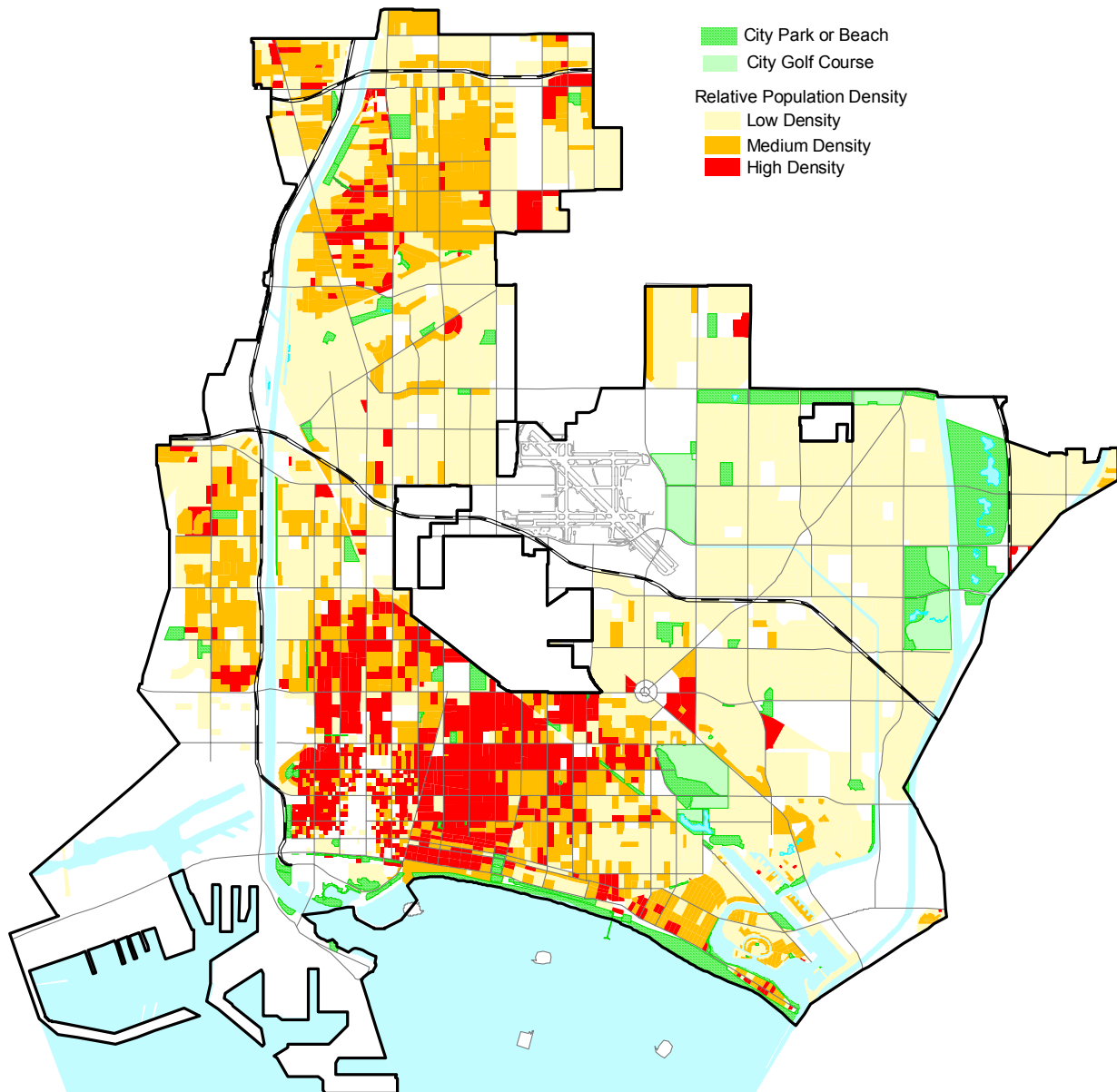
The map on the following page shows the population density throughout the City.



*Exhibit 12*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**  
*Population Density*

**City of Long Beach**  
**Population Density 2000**



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

This high level of population density increases the need for park space. Given this density, fewer families have yard space in which to

recreate, and there is an increased need to escape the pressures of urban life and to order to relieve overcrowded conditions.



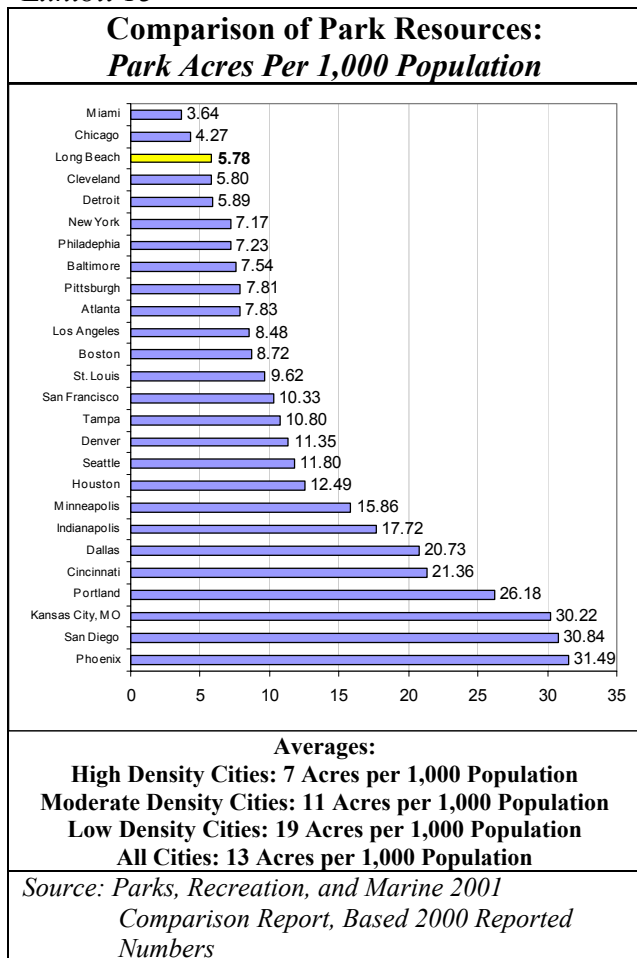
The high level of population density also makes it more difficult to develop and maintain park space given the high demand for land area. Competing needs including housing, commercial space, and even public services vie for the limited space available.



## ADDITIONAL PARK SPACE NEEDED IN LONG BEACH

There are currently approximately 5.7 acres of park land within the City of Long Beach for every 1,000 residents. This includes parks, specialty facilities, beaches, golf courses, and water recreation areas, and is based on the 2000 Census population. As the following exhibit shows, this is substantially below the number of park acres per 1,000 population for many other cities.

*Exhibit 13*

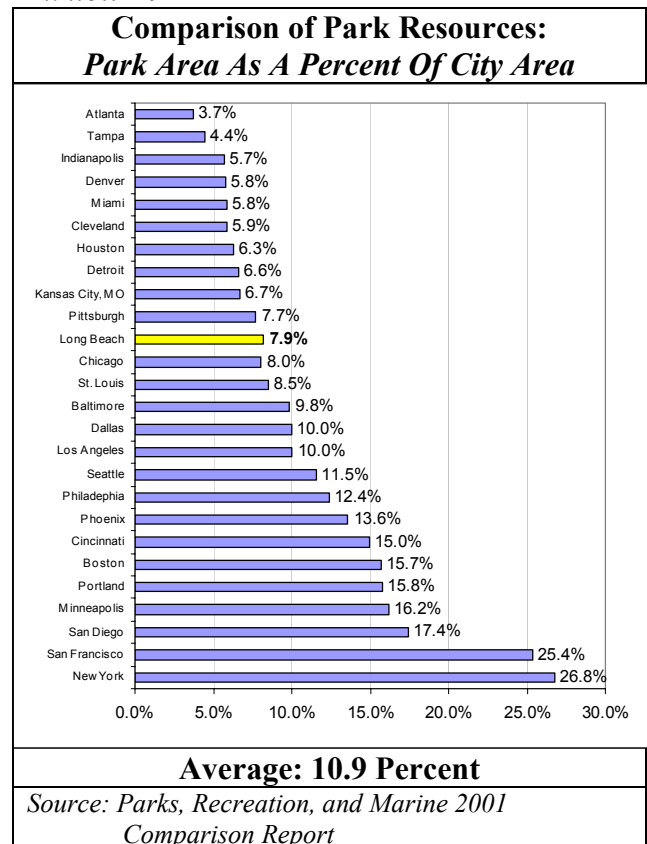


When this comparison was completed (prior to completion of the 2000 census) Long Beach had an estimated 5.78 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. This is substantially below the average of 13 acres per 1,000 residents for all the

cities compared, and somewhat below the average of 7 acres per 1,000 for other high density cities. It is important to note that many of these other cities have national, state, or county parks within their boundaries that serve the needs of their residents. Long Beach does not have any of these types of parks.

Long Beach also falls well below the average in park area compared to total city area. As the following exhibit shows, 7.9 percent of Long Beach is park land. This compares to the average of 10.9 percent for all the cities compared.

*Exhibit 14*



## ACCESS TO CITY PARKS

While the number of acres of park land is an important indicator of overall park resources, it does not clearly indicate how accessible park resources are to residents. Much of the park land

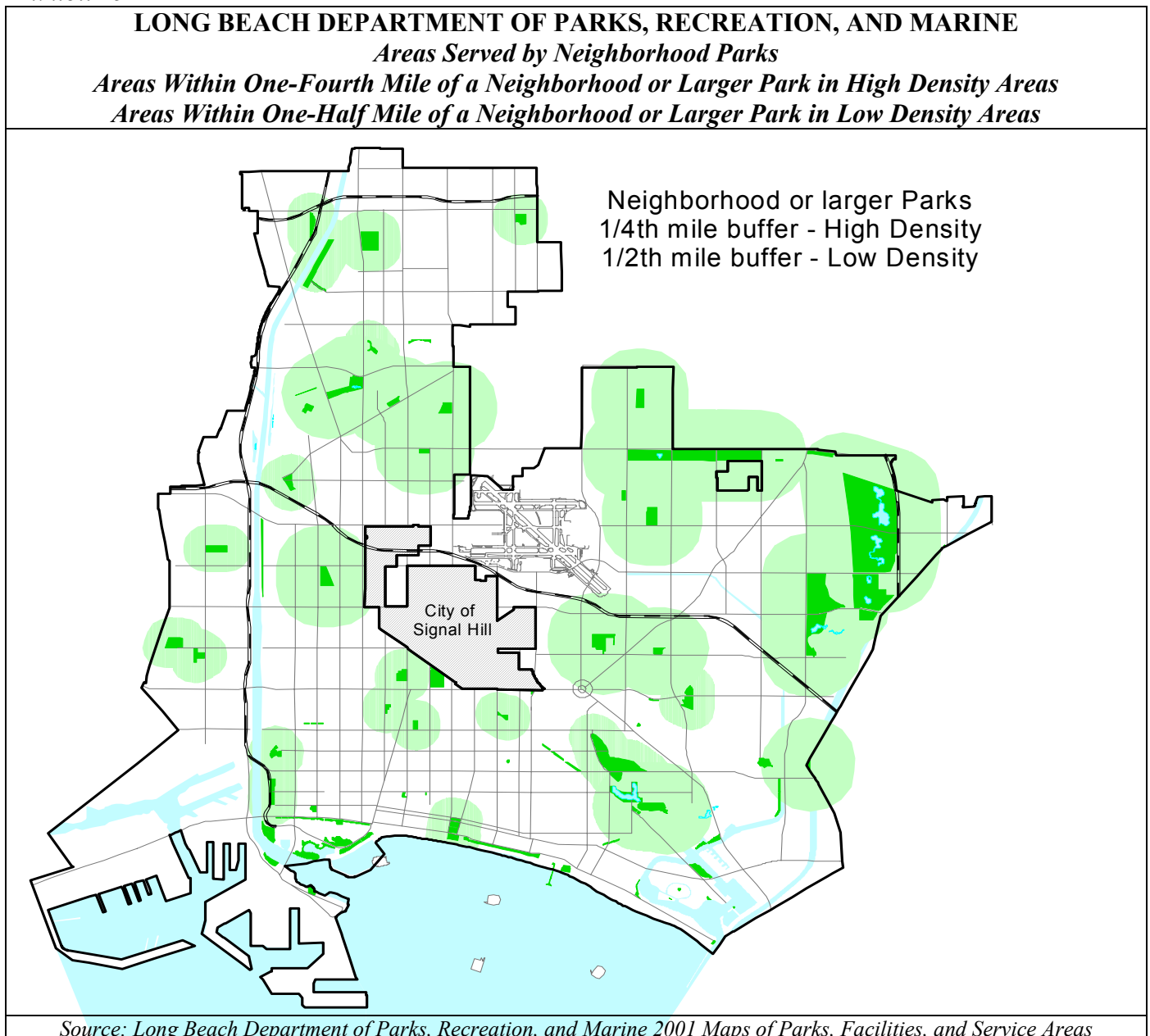


in Long Beach is concentrated on the eastern edge of the City, while the majority of the City's residents are in the central and northern areas.

Ideally residents living in high density areas would have a neighborhood level park within one-quarter mile. Those living in low density areas would have a neighborhood park within one-half mile.

The following exhibit shows the areas of the City where this target service level is currently met. As this map clearly demonstrates, neighborhood park needs are not met in a substantial part of the City.

*Exhibit 15*

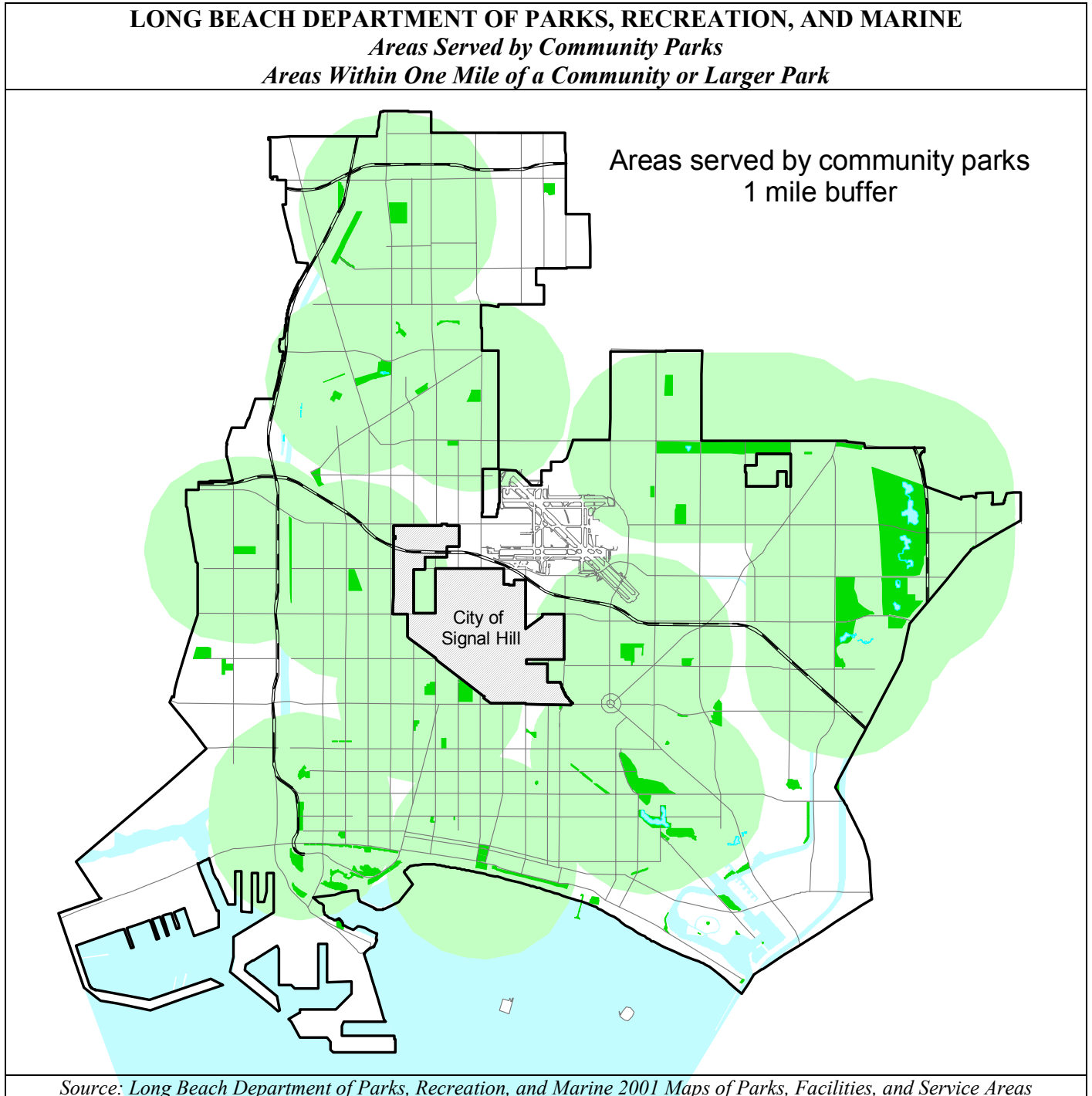




Community parks would ideally be located within one mile of every resident. As the following exhibit shows, the majority of the

City's community park needs are currently being met. However, there are a few areas where access to community parks could be improved.

*Exhibit 16*





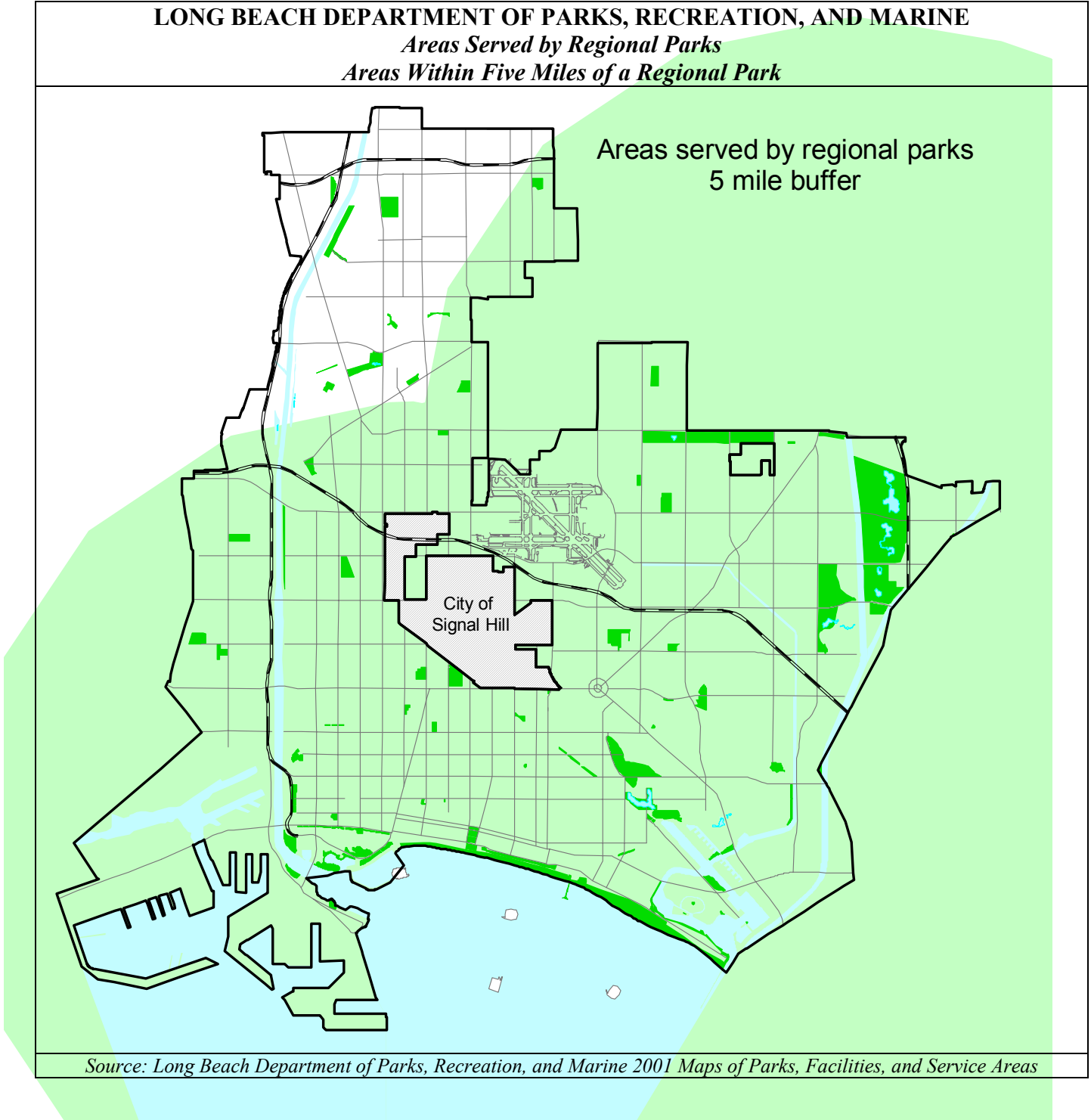
Regional parks would ideally be located within five miles of every resident. As the following exhibit shows, the majority of the City's regional

park needs are currently being met. However, there are a few areas where access to regional parks could be improved.

*Exhibit 17*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Regional Parks***  
***Areas Within Five Miles of a Regional Park***



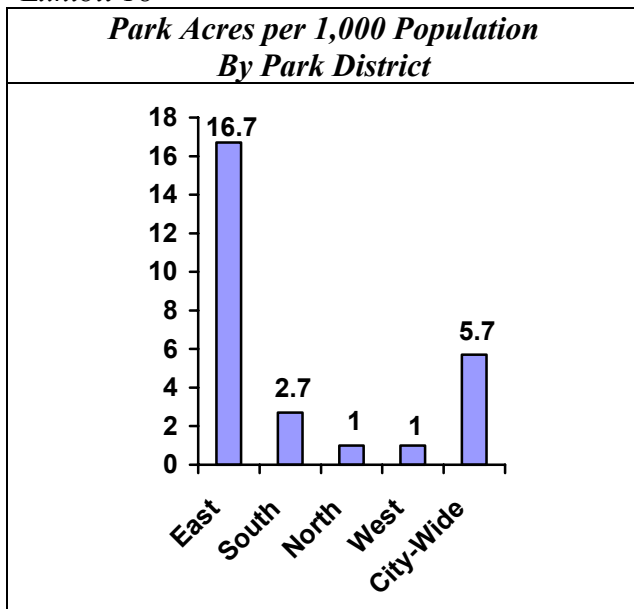
*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*



**THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED BY PARKS VARIES WIDELY**

On average, Long Beach has 5.7 acres of park land for each 1,000 residents of the City. This park land is not distributed throughout the City in the same proportion as the City's population. As the following exhibit shows, the number of acres per 1,000 population varies widely by area of the City, ranging from only 1 acres per 1,000 in the North and West Park Districts, to over 16 acres per 1,000 in the East Park District.

*Exhibit 18*



Given this disparity in park acreage relative to population, the number of persons served per park acre in the different areas of the City varies widely. As the following exhibits show, some parks are serving nearly 8,000 residents per acre, while others serve only a few hundred residents per acre.

*Exhibit 19*

Parks in the West Park District Population Served and Number Served Per Acre			
Park	Acres in Park	Population Served	Served Per Acre
Martin Luther King	8.71	67,999	7,807
MacArthur	3.65	9,623	2,636
Veterans	14.71	37,469	2,547
Silverado	11.73	28,741	2,450
California Rec.	2.32	5,084	2,191
Admiral Kidd	7.43	3,518	473
Hudson	12.76	1,295	101

*Exhibit 20*

Parks in the South Park District Population Served and Number Served Per Acre			
Park	Acres in Park	Population Served	Served Per Acre
Bixby	14.08	63,359	4,499
Cesar Chavez	9.66	33,048	3,421
Orizaba	2.57	8,170	3,179
Drake	6.15	5,933	964

*Exhibit 21*

Parks in the North Park District Population Served and Number Served Per Acre			
Park	Acres in Park	Population Served	Served Per Acre
Cherry	9.94	19,245	1,936
Houghton	26.30	47,411	1,803
Scherer	25.10	43,272	1,724
Atlantic Plaza	3.28	5,205	1,587
Ramona	7.47	5,471	732
Bixby Knolls	4.52	3,115	689
Coolidge	7.35	3,955	538
Somerset	3.84	1,768	460
Deforest	15.04	4,761	317
Los Cerritos	8.07	1,473	183

*Exhibit 22*

Parks in the East Park District Population Served and Number Served Per Acre			
Park	Acres in Park	Population Served	Served Per Acre
Stearns	19.91	23,730	1,192
Recreation	63.30	58,156	919
Los Altos	4.63	1,688	365
Heartwell	114.17	18,396	346
Pan American	11.97	3,277	274
College Estates	2.25	591	263
Whaley	12.87	3,312	257
El Dorado	142.70	24,540	172
Wardlow	16.11	2,659	165
Marina Vista	17.57	1,975	112



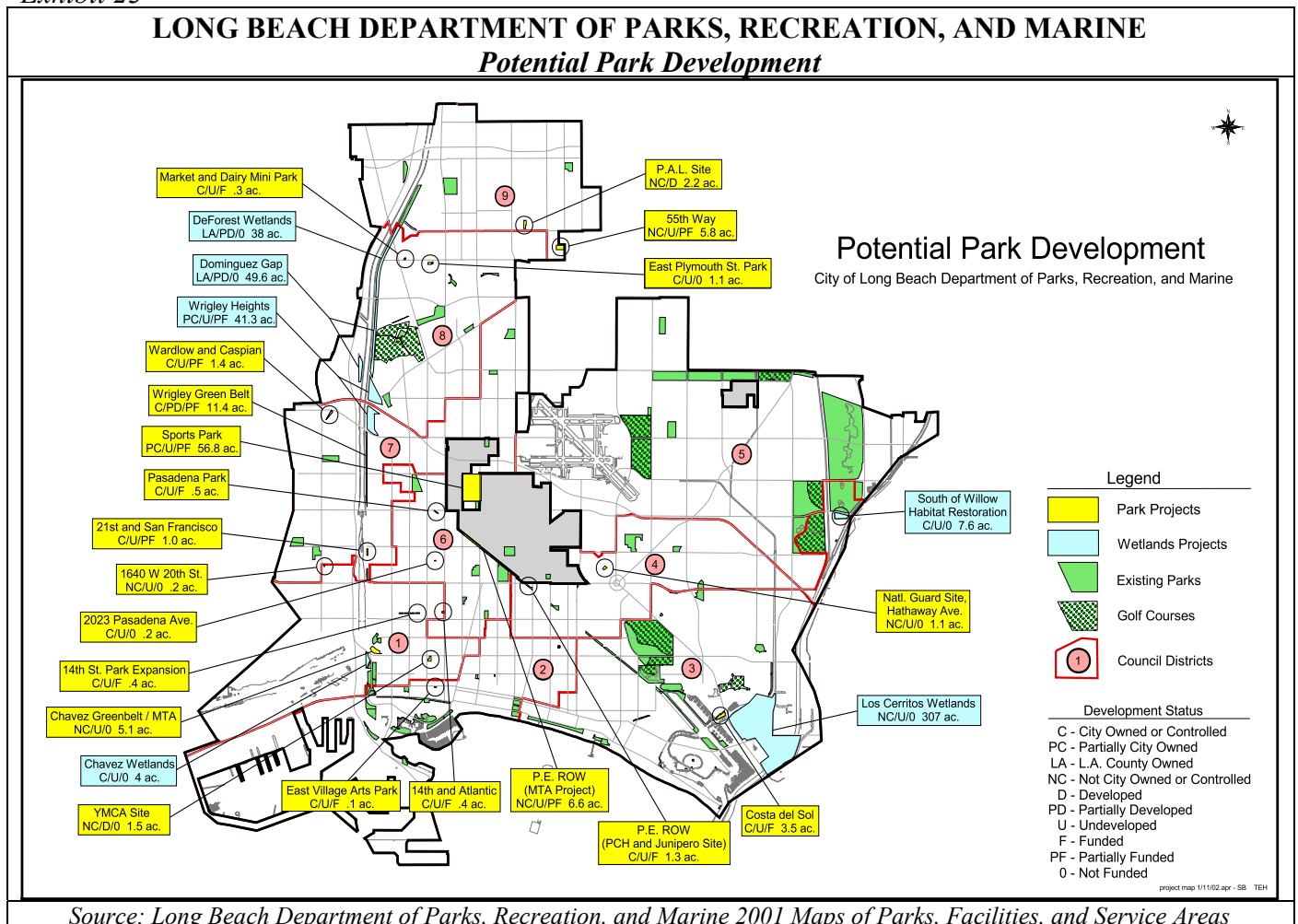
## STRATEGY 1: INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PARK SPACE IN LONG BEACH

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine has established a target of providing 8 acres of park land for every 1,000 Long Beach residents. While this level of park land is well below the average of 13 for all cities compared, it is above the average of 7 acres per 1,000 residents for high density cities comparable to Long Beach.

Approximately 1,080 acres of park land would be needed to meet this target for the current population. The population of Long Beach is projected to increase to 490,405 by the Year 2010. An additional 231 acres of park land will be needed to keep pace with this projected population growth.

The following map shows potential park development the Department is currently working on.

*Exhibit 23*



Specific strategies to increase the amount of park space in long Beach include:

- ✓ Developing a regional park in west Long Beach
- ✓ Developing the beach into a regional park

- ✓ Continuing the commitment to turn brownfields into parks
- ✓ Using flood control channels, rights of way elements, Edison easements, and similar locations to connect parks and rivers



- ✓ Creating ribbons of green connecting all major parks and open spaces with walking and bicycling trails
- ✓ Using park and recreation land acquisition and development as a tool to advance the City's economic development strategy
- ✓ Developing a 50 to 100 acre nature center / environmental education center on the Los Angeles River
- ✓ Encouraging and supporting acquisition and development of Los Cerritos Wetlands and wetlands in general
- ✓ Developing a plan for minipark locations throughout the City
- ✓ Continuing the purchase and development of P.E. Right-of-Way as a greenbelt
- ✓ Exploring the feasibility of using alleys as potential small parks and connections to parks
- ✓ Evaluating the park impact fee plan and make changes
- ✓ Developing a citywide greenway/trails plan
- ✓ Considering parks bond or some method to address new park needs and infrastructure issues with current facilities

## **STRATEGY 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO CITY PARKS IN LONG BEACH**

Strategies for improving access to parks include:

- ✓ Developing a park or open space in every neighborhood,
- ✓ Providing a community level park within a one-mile radius of every residence,
- ✓ Creating ribbons of green connecting all major parks and open spaces with walking and bicycling trails
- ✓ Developing adequate numbers of parking spaces and easy access to parks and open spaces by walking, bicycling, and public transportation,
- ✓ Using the beach and bay as a regional park by increasing and diversifying the recreational opportunities available there,
- ✓ Incorporating parks into the citywide bike plan,
- ✓ Considering parks bond or some method to address new park needs and infrastructure issues with current facilities

Additional information on these strategies, including implementation timeframe and responsibility, are contained in the appendix to the strategic plan.

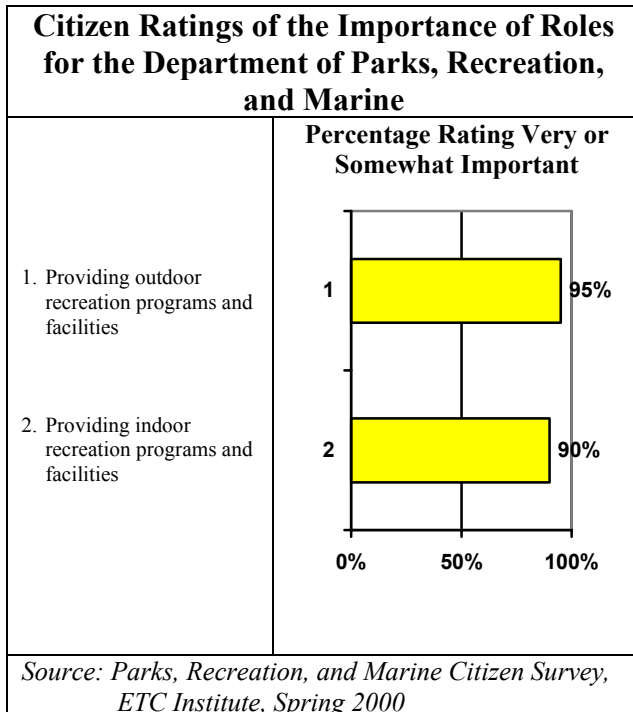


## Goal 2: Meet Community Recreation Facility Needs

In developing its Citywide strategic plan, the City of Long Beach made neighborhoods a top priority. The first goal of the adopted plan is to “Build a strong network of healthy neighborhoods.” Sports and recreation facilities are a key component of a healthy neighborhood and are included in the strategic actions that the plan suggests to support this goal.

Providing sports and recreation facilities and amenities is also a role for the Department that is strongly supported by the residents of Long Beach. As the following exhibit shows, 95 percent of residents rate the role of providing outdoor recreation programs and facilities as either very or somewhat important for the Department. Nearly as many, 90 percent, rated the role of providing indoor recreation programs and facilities as either very or somewhat important for the Department.

*Exhibit 24*



The Department currently provides sports and recreation facilities to the Community including:

- ✓ Playgrounds
- ✓ Swimming Pools
- ✓ Tennis Courts
- ✓ Outdoor Basketball Courts
- ✓ Football / Soccer Fields
- ✓ Baseball / Softball Fields
- ✓ Community Recreation Centers

### Target Service Levels

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine has developed and maintains recreation facilities throughout the City. Two factors are used to determine how well these facilities are meeting the needs of the Community – the number of residents served per facility and the area served by each facility.

The Department has developed target service levels for each of the types of recreation facilities it provides. These target service levels were developed considering the current service level, the specific needs of Long Beach residents, and national standards presented by the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA). The following chart shows the target service levels for Long Beach recreation facilities.

*Exhibit 25*

Long Beach Recreation Facilities Target Service Levels		
Type of Facility	Population Served	Service Area
Playgrounds	5,000	¼ mile
Swimming Pools	50,000	1 mile
Tennis Courts	7,500	½ mile
Basketball Courts	2,000	¼ mile
Football/Soccer Fields	5,000	1 mile
Baseball/Softball Fields	5,000	1 mile



As an example, the target service level for playgrounds is that the City would have one playground for every 5,000 residents, and would have a playground within one-quarter mile of every resident.

The Department has also developed a target service level for community recreation centers, which provides one square foot of center space for each City resident. The total square footage of a particular facility would then be used to determine the service area for that facility.

### ***School District Recreation Facilities***

The Long Beach Unified School District operates and maintains recreation facilities throughout the City as part of their elementary, middle, and high schools. While these facilities are intended to primarily support the recreational needs of the students at these schools, some of these facilities are open and accessible to the public during non-school hours. Using some of these facilities may require members of the public to go through closed but unlocked gates, or step over chains across openings.

Recreation facilities at schools, that are accessible to the public, have been included in the analysis of service levels and needs. Recreational facilities at schools where no public access is allowed are not included.

### **Playgrounds**

Playgrounds provide important basic recreational opportunities for families with young children by supplying an appropriate place for children to expend youthful energy. In addition, they also

serve as a place for social interaction to occur between community members.

The Department currently provides 52 playground facilities throughout the City. Twenty additional playgrounds are owned by the Long Beach Unified School District, and are accessible to the residents of Long Beach. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one playground for every 6,410 residents. As the following exhibit shows, this level is below the target service level of one playground for every 5,000 residents.

To meet target service levels related to playgrounds, an additional 20 playgrounds are needed to meet current needs. An additional 25 playgrounds are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

#### ***Exhibit 26***

<b>Analysis of Current Playground Service Levels Compared to Target Service Levels</b>	
Current Number	52 LBPRM / 20 LBUSD
Current Service Level	1 per 6,410 residents
Target Service Level	1 per 5,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	20
Additional Need - 2010	25
<b><i>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</i></b>	

Ideally, the City would have a playground within one-quarter mile of every resident. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current playgrounds, and the areas that are served within one-quarter mile of each of these playgrounds. As this exhibit shows, there are substantial areas that are not being adequately served.

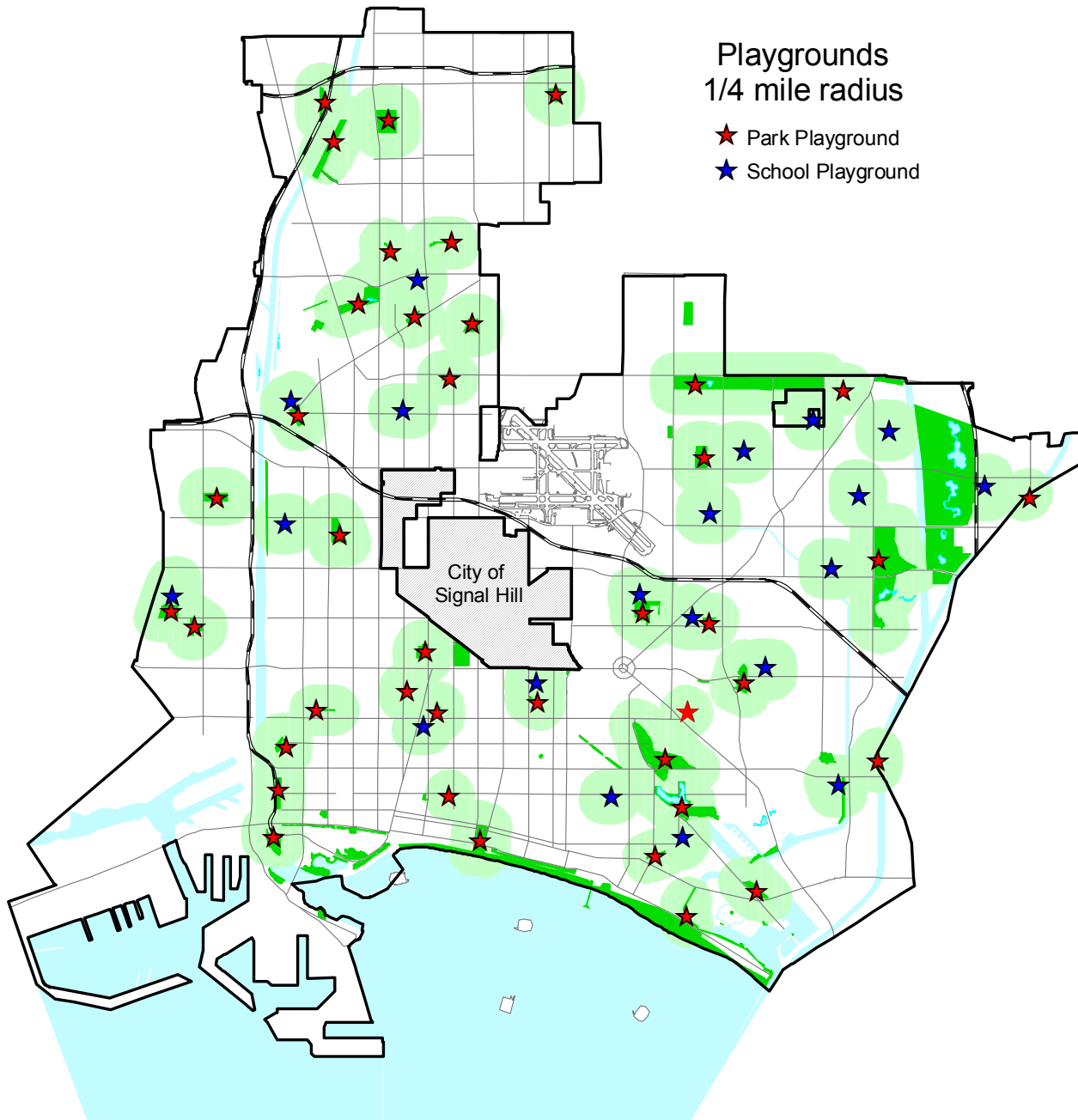


*Exhibit 27*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

*Areas Served by Playgrounds*

*Areas Within One-Fourth Mile of a Playground*



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Swimming Pools**

Swimming pools provide opportunities for relaxation, competitive achievement,

development of water rescue and swimming skills, and the ability to cool off on hot summer days. Long Beach currently has four swimming pools throughout the City. (Although the Long



Beach Unified School District has swimming pools, they are not generally accessible to the residents of Long Beach.) Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one swimming pool for every 115,381 residents.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is far below the target service level of one swimming pool for every 50,000 residents. To meet target service levels related to swimming pools, an additional five pools are needed to meet current needs. An additional six pools are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

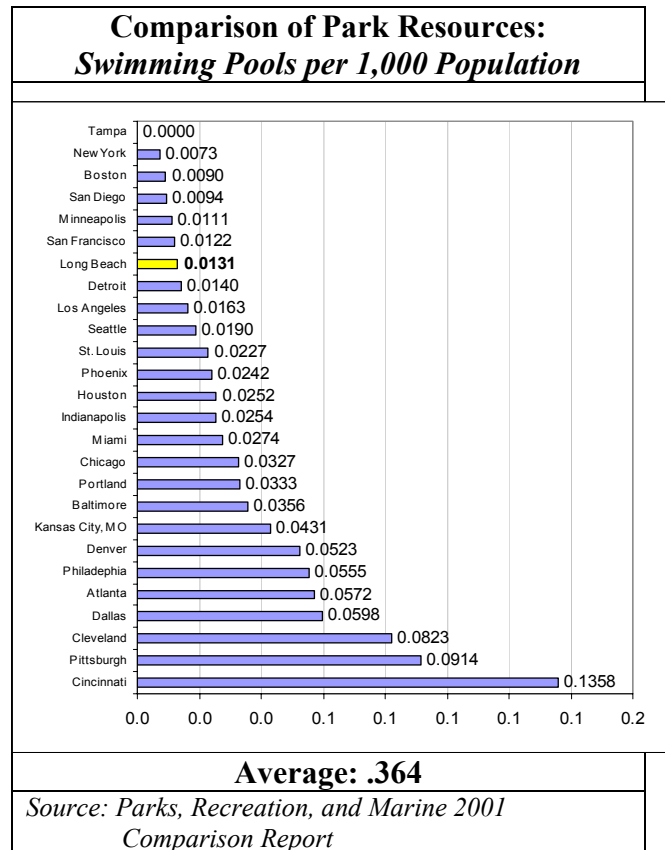
*Exhibit 28*

<b>Analysis of Current Swimming Pool Service Levels Compared to Target Service Levels</b>	
Current Number	4 LBPRM
Current Service Level	1 per 115,381 residents
Target Service Level	1 per 50,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	5
Additional Need - 2010	6
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

We also compared the number of swimming pools in Long Beach with the number of swimming pools in other large cities.

As the following exhibit shows, Long Beach has substantially fewer swimming pools than other large cities. Long Beach has .013 swimming pools per 1,000 population, substantially below the average of .036 for the cities compared.

*Exhibit 29*

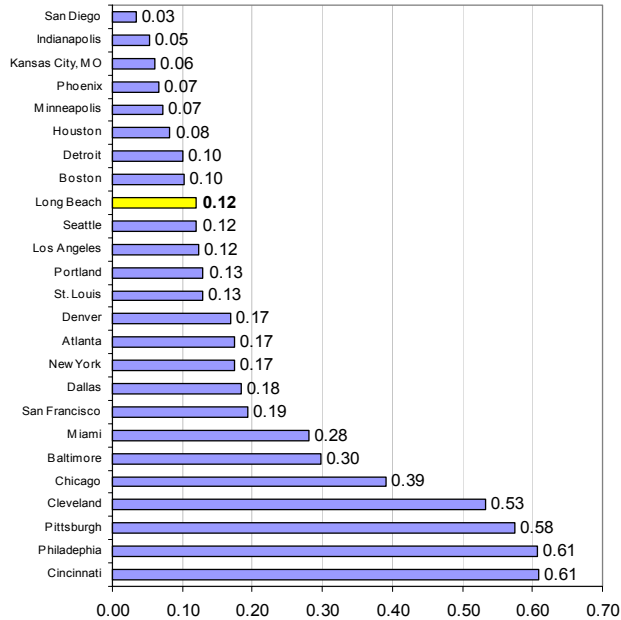


As the following exhibit shows, the number of swimming pools per square mile is also substantially lower, at .11 per square mile for Long Beach, compared to the average of .27 for the cities compared.



**Exhibit 30**

**Comparison of Park Resources:  
Swimming Pools per Square Mile**



**Average: .2678**

*Source: Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001  
Comparison Report*

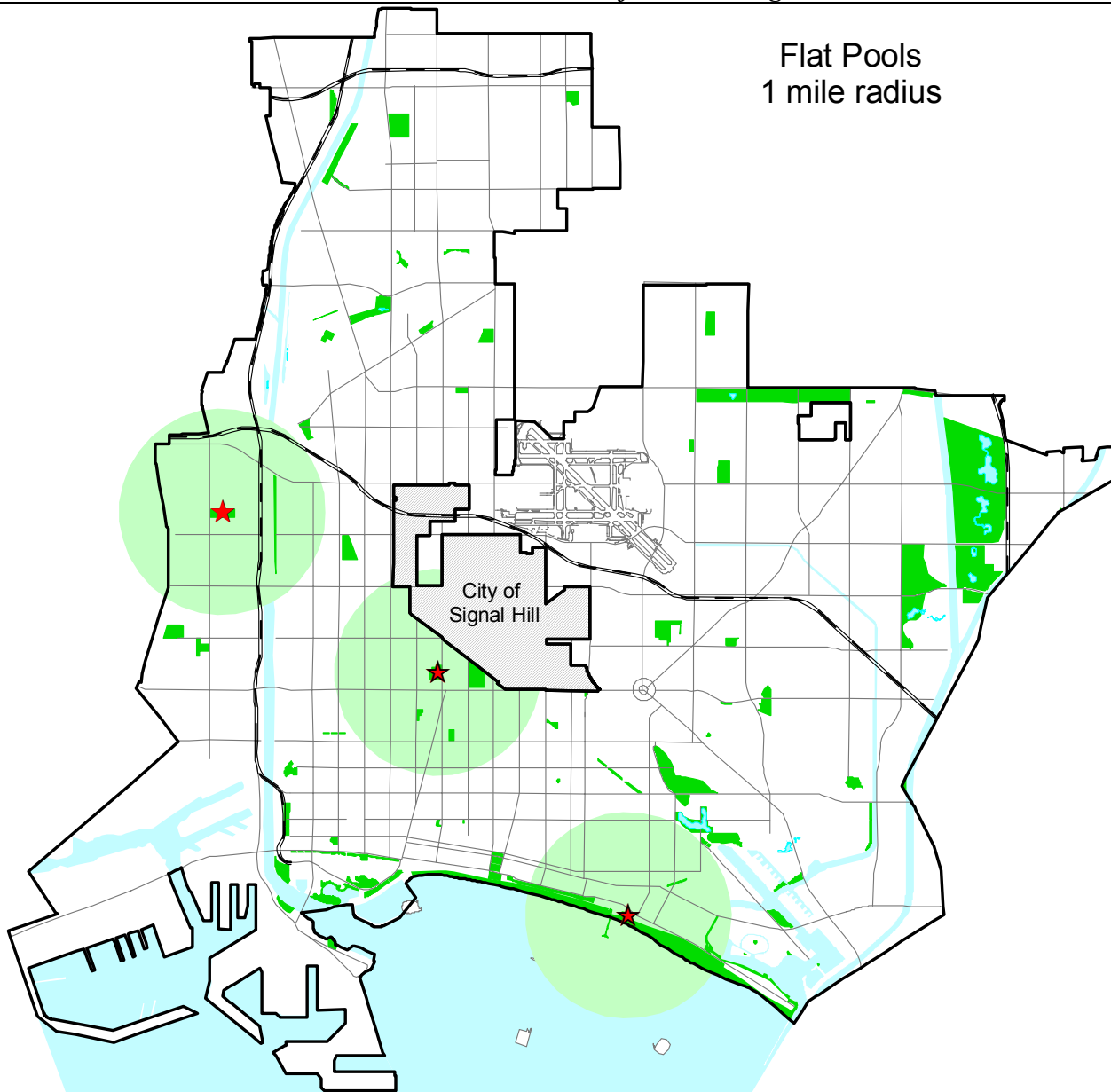
Ideally, the City would have a swimming pool within one mile of every resident. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current swimming pools, and the areas that are served within one mile of each of these pools. As this exhibit shows, there are substantial areas that are not being adequately served.



*Exhibit 31*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Swimming Pools***  
***Areas Within One Mile of a Swimming Pool***



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Tennis Courts**

Tennis courts provide opportunities for relaxation, competitive achievement, development of skills, and social interaction.

Long Beach currently has 60 tennis courts throughout the City. (Although the Long Beach Unified School District has tennis courts, they are not generally accessible to the residents of Long Beach.) Based on the 2000 census



population, this provides one tennis court for every 7,692 residents.

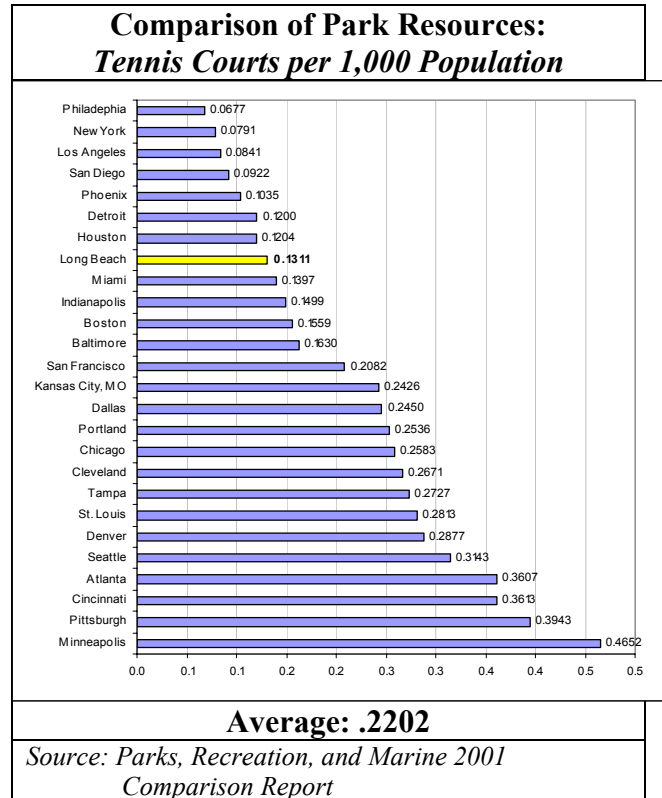
As the following exhibit shows, this level is slightly below the target service level of one tennis court for every 7,500 residents. To meet target service levels related to tennis courts, two additional tennis courts are needed to meet current needs. An additional five tennis courts are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

*Exhibit 32*

<b>Analysis of Current Tennis Court Service Levels Compared to Target service levels Based on 2000 Census Population</b>	
Current Number	60 LBPRM
Current Service Level	1 per 7,692 residents
Target service level	1 per 7,500 residents
Additional Need - 2000	2
Additional Need - 2010	5
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

We also compared the number of tennis courts in Long Beach with the number of tennis courts in other large cities. As the following exhibits show, Long Beach has fewer tennis courts than many other large cities.

*Exhibit 33*

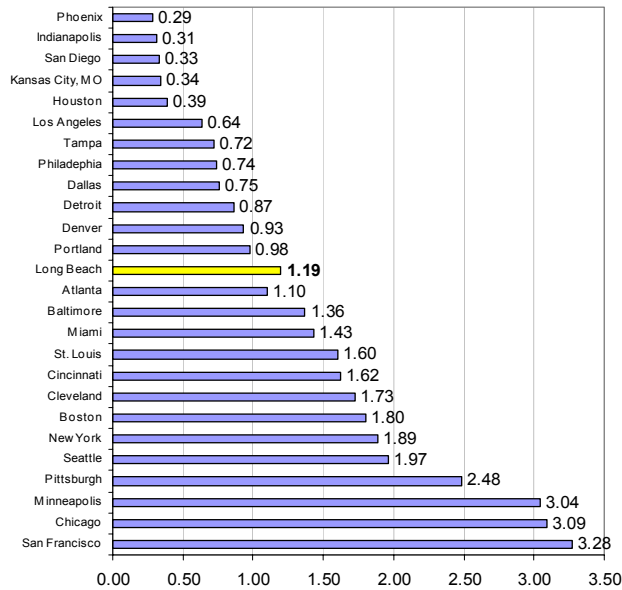


Long Beach has .13 tennis courts per 1,000 population, substantially below the average of .22 for the cities compared. The number of tennis courts per square miles is also substantially lower, at 1.14 per square mile for Long Beach, compared to the average of 1.74 for the cities compared.



**Exhibit 34**

**Comparison of Park Resources:**  
**Tennis Courts per Square Mile**



**Average: 1.74**

*Source: Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001  
Comparison Report*

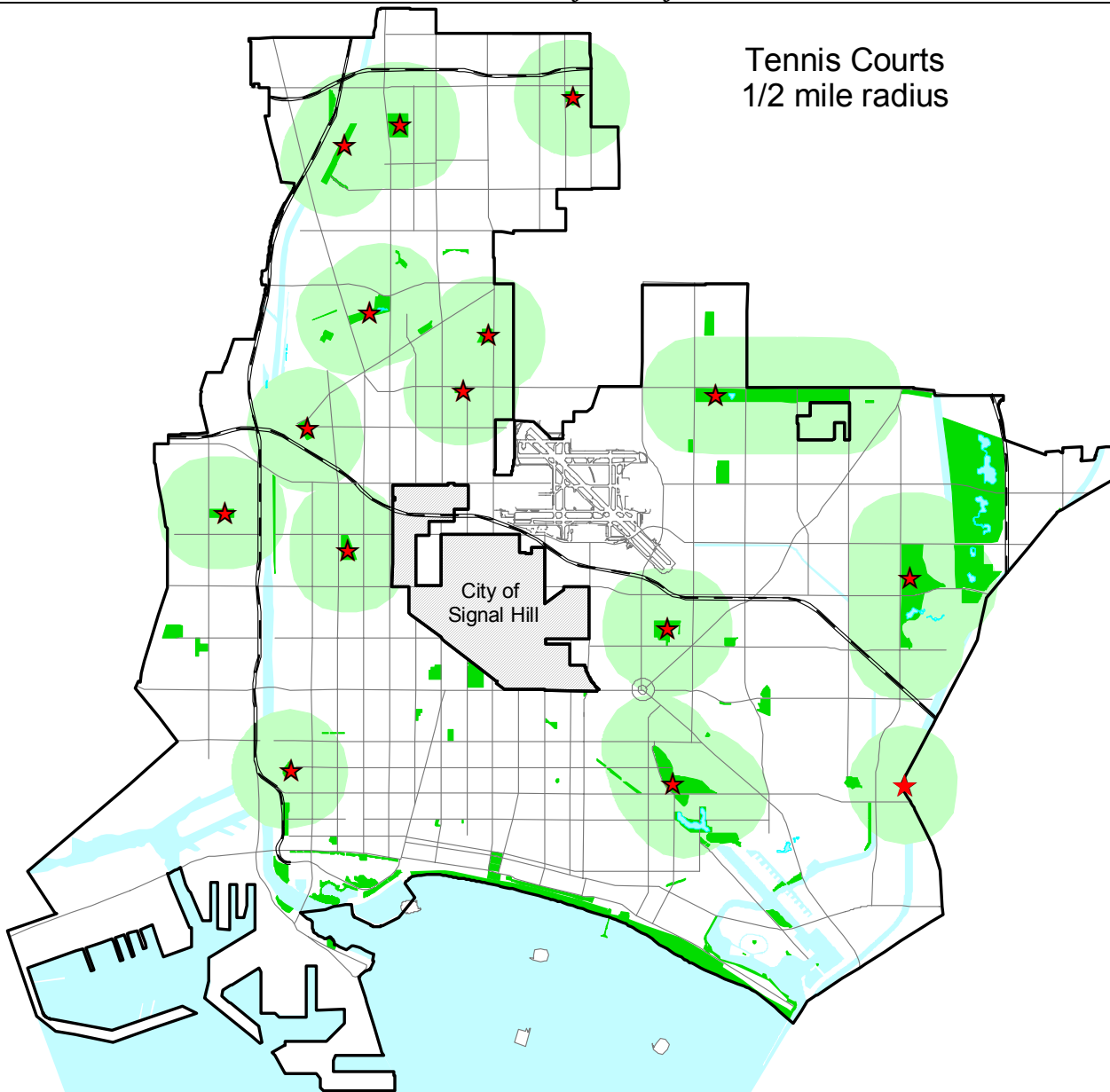
Ideally, the City would have a tennis court within one-half mile of every resident. The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current tennis courts and the areas that are served within one-half mile of each of these courts. As this exhibit shows, there are substantial areas that are not being adequately served.



*Exhibit 35*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

*Areas Served by Tennis Courts*  
*Areas Within One-Half Mile of a Tennis Court*



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Basketball Courts**

As with other sports facilities, basketball courts provide opportunities for relaxation, competitive achievement, development of skills, and social

interaction. Long Beach currently has a total of 41 basketball courts. Of these, 38 are outside basketball courts, and 3 are indoor basketball courts that are part of gymnasiums. An additional 176 basketball courts are owned by



the Long Beach Unified School District, and are accessible to the residents of Long Beach. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one basketball court for every 2,157 residents.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is slightly below the target service level of one basketball court for every 2,000 residents. To meet target service levels related to basketball, an additional 17 basketball courts are needed to meet current needs. An additional 29 basketball courts will be required to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

Ideally, the City would have an outdoor basketball court within one-quarter mile of every resident and an indoor basketball court within one mile of every resident.

The following exhibits show the locations of the City's current outdoor and indoor basketball courts and the areas that are served within one-quarter and one mile of each of these courts.

As these exhibits show, there are substantial areas that are not currently being adequately served.

*Exhibit 36*

<b>Analysis of Current Basketball Court Service Levels Compared to Target service levels Based on 2000 Census Population</b>	
Current Number	41 LBPRM / 176 LBUSD
Current Service Level	1 per 2,157 residents
Target service level	1 per 2,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	17
Additional Need - 2010	29
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

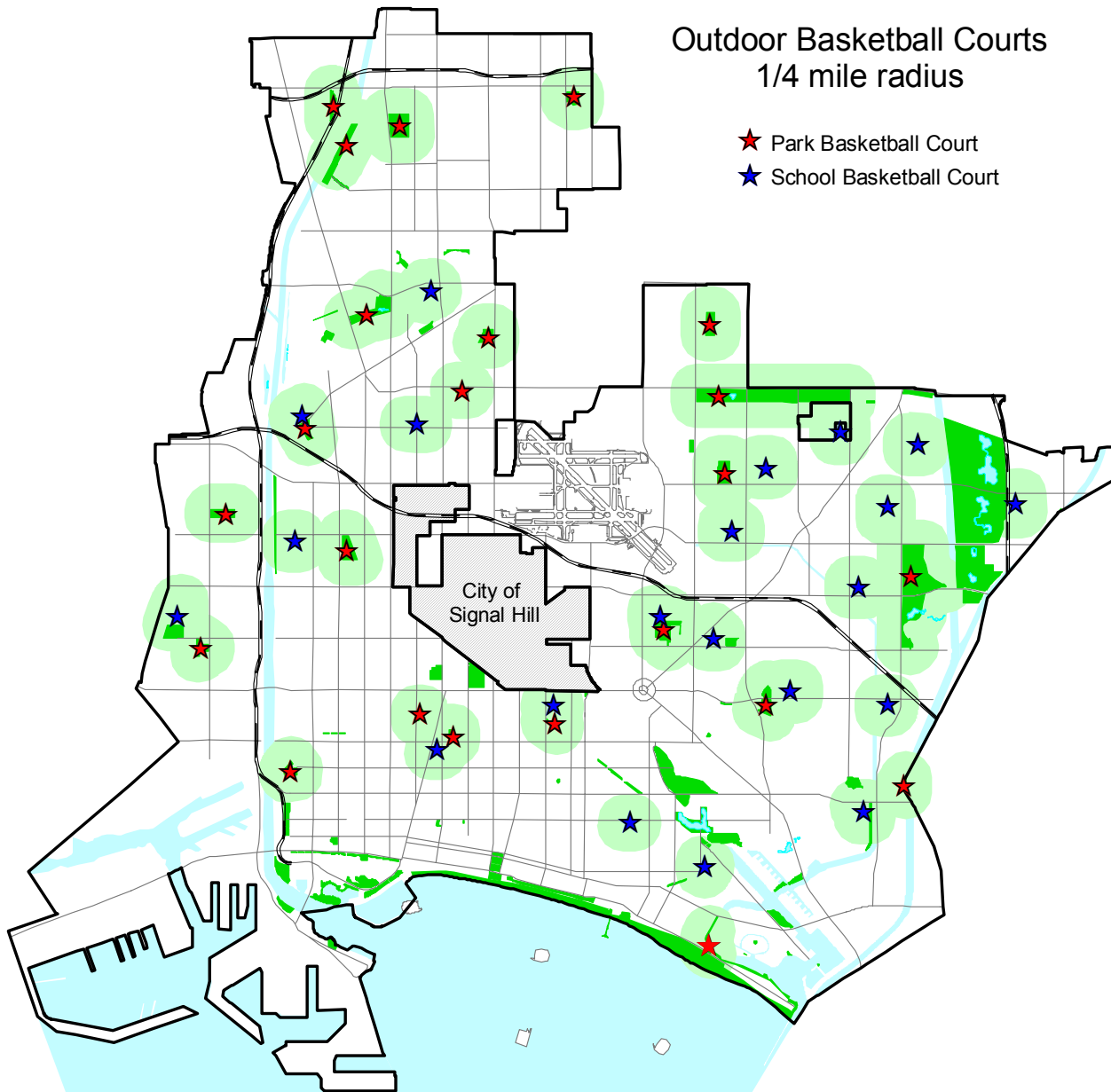


*Exhibit 37*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Outdoor Basketball Courts***

***Areas Within One-Quarter Mile of an Outdoor Basketball Court***



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

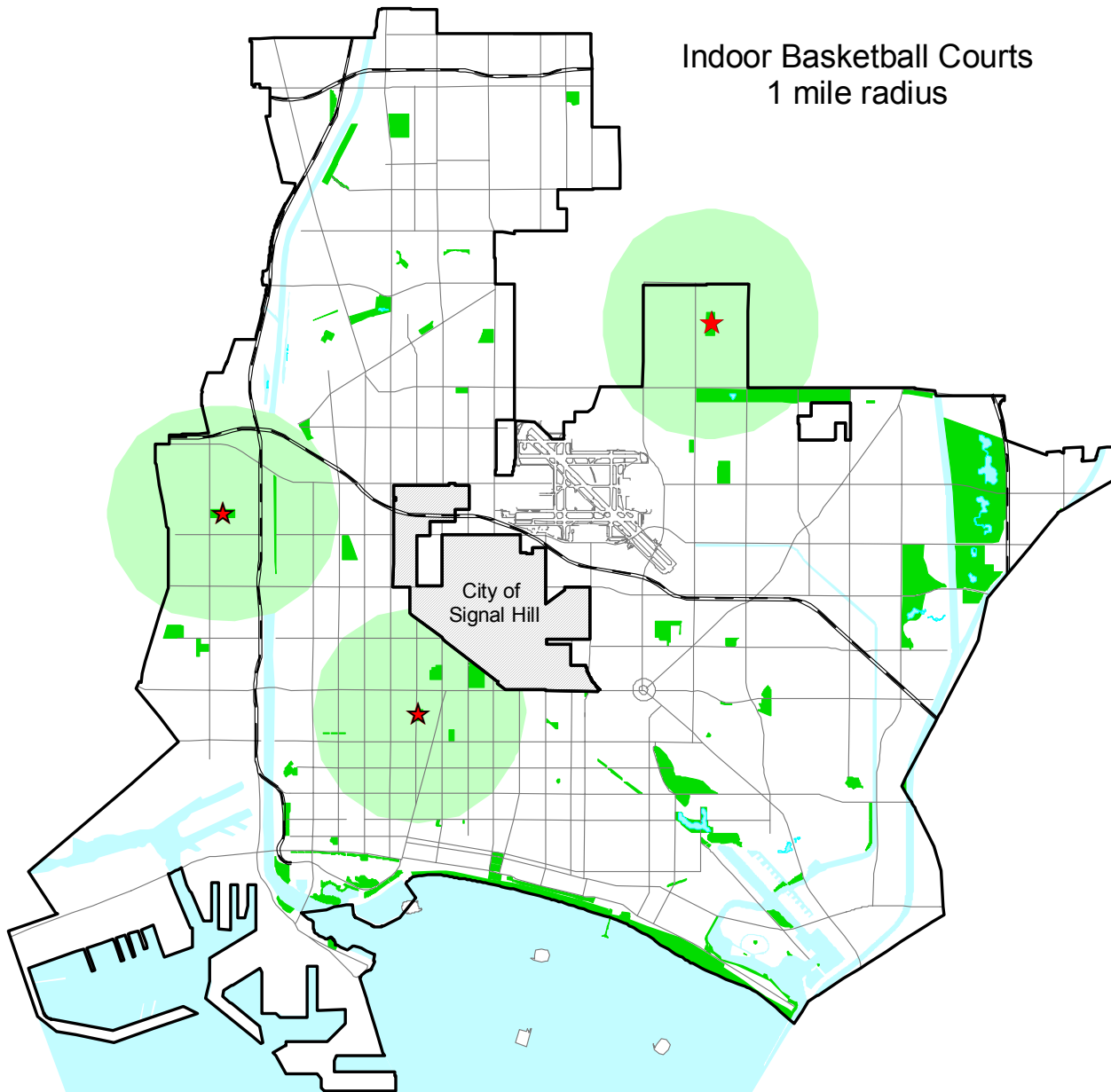


*Exhibit 38*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Indoor Basketball Courts***

***Areas Within One Mile of an Indoor Basketball Court***



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Sports Fields**

Sports fields are used to practice or play soccer, football, baseball, and softball. As with other

sports facilities, sports fields provide opportunities for relaxation, competitive achievement, development of skills, and social interaction. There are two basic configurations



for sports fields, one for playing soccer and football, and one for playing baseball and softball.

Long Beach currently has a total of 40 sports fields that can be used to play soccer or football. An additional 2 sports fields are owned by the Long Beach Unified School District, and are accessible to the residents of Long Beach. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one soccer / football field for every 10,989 residents.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is below the target service level of one soccer or football field for every 5,000 residents. To meet target service levels related to soccer and football fields, an additional 50 fields are needed. An additional 55 fields are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

**Exhibit 39**

<b>Analysis of Current Soccer/Football Service Levels Compared to Target service levels Based on 2000 Census Population</b>	
Current Number	40 LBPRM / 2 LBUSD
Current Service Level	1 per 10,989 residents
Target service level	1 per 5,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	50
Additional Need - 2010	55
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

Long Beach currently has a total of 59 sports fields that can be used to play baseball or softball. An additional 6 baseball / softball fields are owned by the Long Beach Unified School District, and are accessible to the residents of Long Beach. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides one baseball / softball for every 7,100 residents.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is below the target service level of one baseball / softball field for every 5,000 residents. To meet target service levels related to baseball and softball fields, 33 additional fields are needed. To meet target service levels related to baseball /

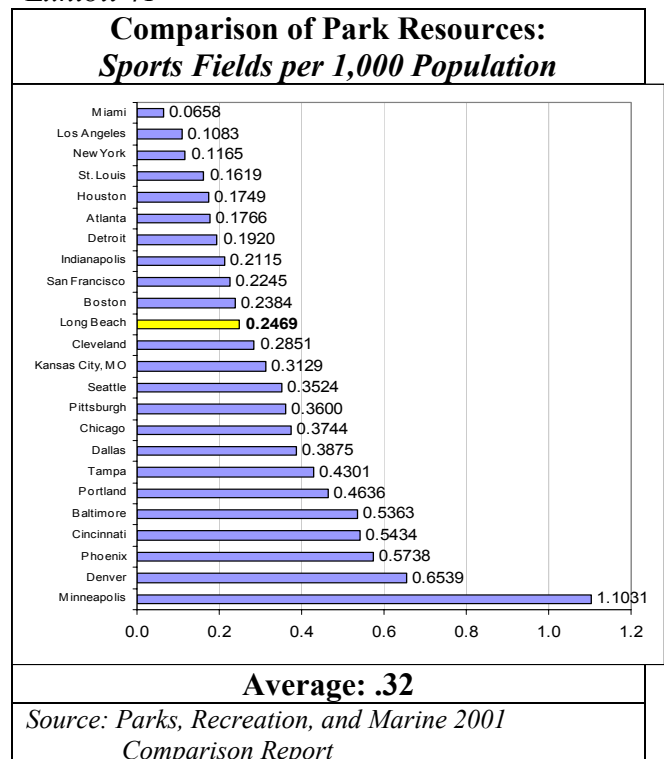
softball fields, an additional 27 fields are needed to meet current needs. An additional 32 fields are needed to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

**Exhibit 40**

<b>Analysis of Current Baseball/Softball Service Levels Compared to Target service levels Based on 2000 Census Population</b>	
Current Number	59 LBPRM / 6 LBUSD
Current Service Level	1 per 7,100 residents
Target service level	1 per 5,000 residents
Additional Need - 2000	27
Additional Need - 2010	32
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

We also compared the number of sports fields in Long Beach with the number of sports fields in other large cities. As the following exhibits shows, Long Beach has fewer sports fields than other large cities.

**Exhibit 41**



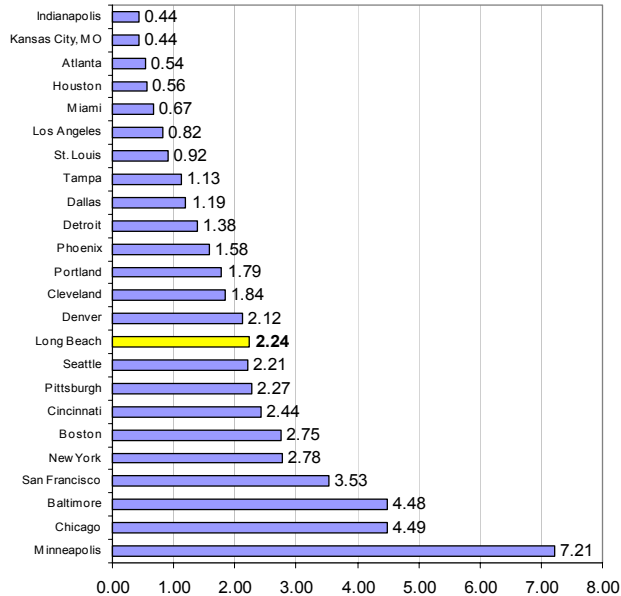
Long Beach has approximately .25 sports fields per 1,000 population, below the average of .32



for the cities compared. The number of sports fields per square miles is also lower, at 2.15 per square mile for Long Beach, compared to the average of 2.45 for the cities compared.

*Exhibit 42*

**Comparison of Park Resources:**  
***Sports Fields per Square Mile***



**Average: 2.45**

*Source: Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001  
Comparison Report*

Ideally, the City would have sports fields that could be used for soccer and football, and sports fields that could be used for baseball and softball, within one mile of every resident. The following exhibits show the locations of the City's current sports fields, and the areas that are served within one mile of each of these fields. As these exhibits show most areas of the City are currently adequately served.

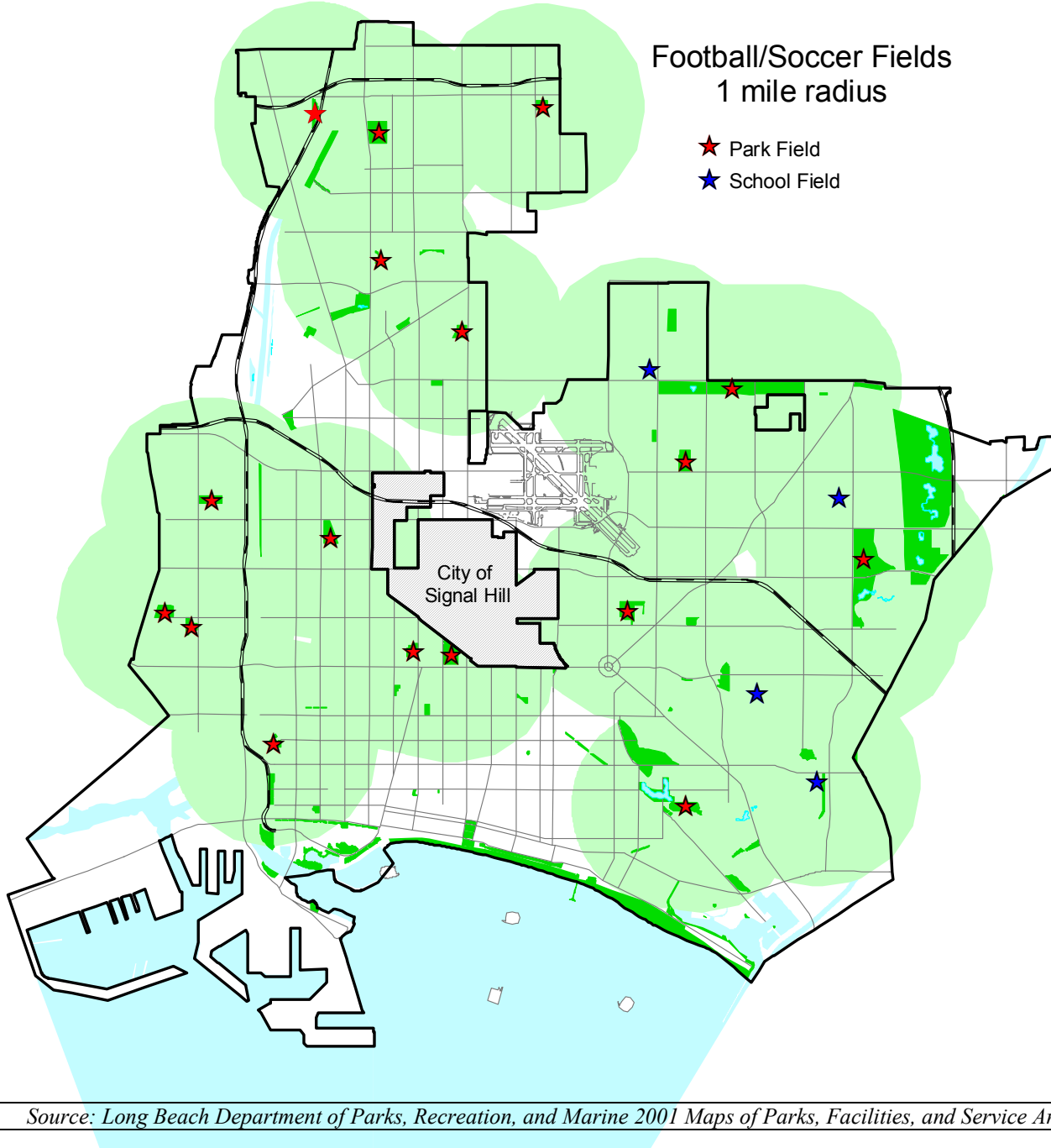


*Exhibit 43*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Soccer/Football Fields***

***Areas Within One Mile of a Football/Soccer Field***



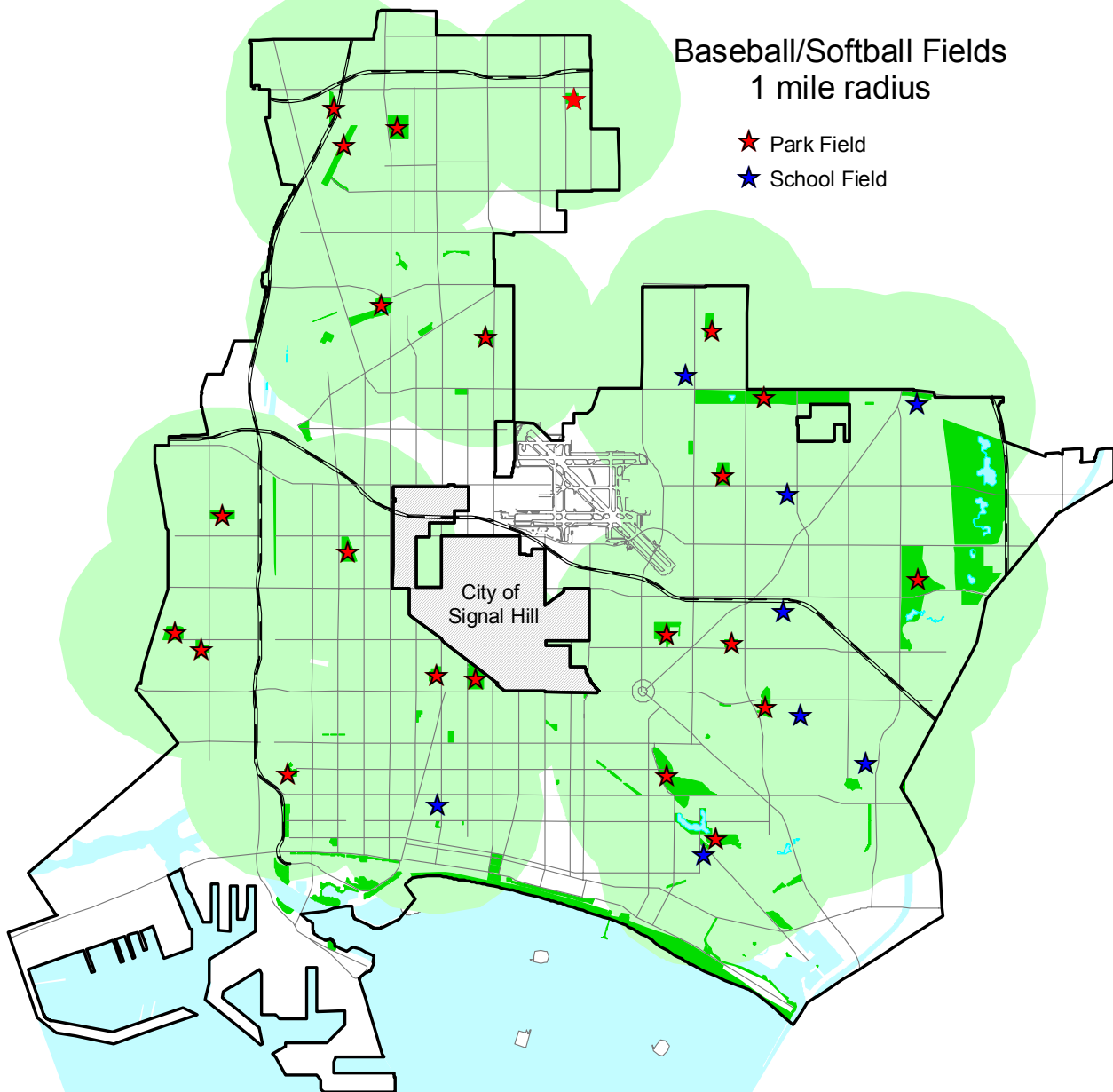


*Exhibit 44*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

***Areas Served by Baseball/Softball Fields***

***Areas Within One Mile of a Baseball/Softball Field***



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*

**Community Recreation Centers**

Community recreation centers provide numerous opportunities, including sports activities at

indoor gymnasiums, community meetings and social gatherings in meeting rooms, and classes on various topics.



Long Beach currently has a total of 26 community and neighborhood recreation centers, ranging in size from less than 1,000 square feet to the Senior Center with 46,000 square feet. Some of these centers include facilities such as gymnasiums, swimming pools, weightlifting and exercise areas, kitchens, theatrical stages, and meeting rooms. Other community recreation centers contain little more than meeting rooms.

The total square feet of community recreation center space in the City is 154,064 square feet. Based on the 2000 census population, this provides .33 square feet of community recreation center space per resident.

As the following exhibit shows, this level is below the target service level of one square foot of community recreation center space for every resident. To meet target service levels related to community centers, an additional 307,458 square feet of community center space is required to meet current needs. An additional 330,936 square feet of community center space will be required to meet the needs of the City's projected 2010 population.

**Exhibit 45**

<b>Analysis of Current Community Center Service Levels Compared to Target service levels Based on 2000 Census Population</b>	
Current Number	154,064 Square Feet
Current Service Level	.33 square foot per resident
Target service level	1 square foot per resident
Additional Need - 2000	307,458 Square Feet
Additional Need - 2010	330,936 Square Feet
<b>Based on 2000 Census Population (461,522) And 2010 Projected Population (485,000)</b>	

Ideally, Long Beach would have community recreation centers throughout the City. These centers would be sized to provide approximately one square foot of space for each resident in the area served by each community recreation center.

The following exhibit shows the locations of the City's current community recreation centers, and the areas that can be served by these centers based on the square footage of each center. As these exhibits show, there are numerous areas of the City are not adequately served.

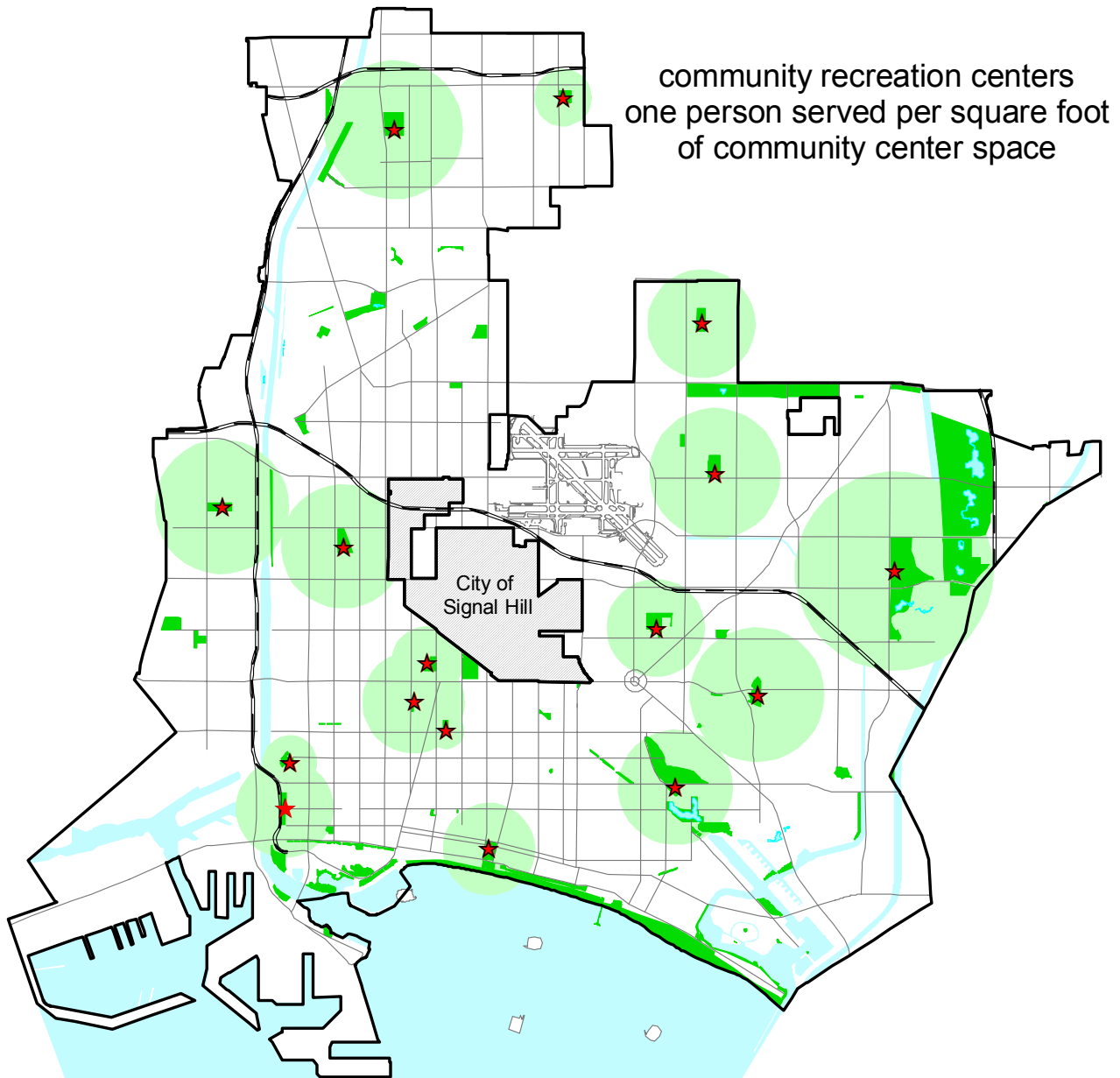


*Exhibit 46*

**LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE**

*Areas Served by Community Recreation Centers*

*Areas Determined Combining Size of Community Recreation Center and Population in Area*



*Source: Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine 2001 Maps of Parks, Facilities, and Service Areas*



### **STRATEGY 3: INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Long Beach Unified School District has substantial recreation facilities that are part of their elementary, middle, and high school sites. Virtually all of the District's facilities will always be closed to the public during school hours. The following exhibit shows the number of each type of facility that are accessible to the public outside of regular school hours, and the number of each type of facility that are not accessible to the public.

*Exhibit 47*

<b>Long Beach Unified School District Recreation Facilities Accessible / Not Accessible to the Public</b>		
<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>
Playgrounds	20	32
Swimming Pools	0	4
Tennis Courts	0	60
Basketball Courts	176	271
Football/Soccer Fields	2	40
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	9
<i>Note: Public access was determined by calling each school site, as a member of the public, and asking if recreational facilities at that site were available and accessible to the general public.</i>		

The School District's current policy allows each school principal to determine if the public can access recreation facilities at each school site. Some school principals have decided to completely open their facilities to the public; others have decided to completely close their facilities, often with high fences and locked gates.

Some of the School District's sports fields identified as not accessible are used by members of the public. To use these facilities requires applying for and receiving a permit from the District, and payment of a fee to cover the cost of school personnel on-site during the use. This use

meets some of the Community's recreational needs.

Specific strategies to increase public access to School District recreation facilities include:

- ✓ Identifying school facilities in areas most in need that are currently not accessible
- ✓ Working with the principals at those schools to open their facilities
- ✓ Working with district management to adjust their policies on public access to encourage principals to open their recreation facilities to the public
- ✓ Identifying areas where the department can increase their contribution to the mission of the school district

### **STRATEGY 4: DEVELOP ADDITIONAL CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

While the School District has substantial recreational facilities that can help meet the Community's recreational needs, they cannot completely fill the current gap between the Community's recreational facility needs and current facilities. Not all School District recreation facilities can be made publicly accessible. Some of the District's facilities must remain closed to the public to meet the recreation needs of the District's students. Virtually all of the District's facilities will always be closed to the public during school hours. The City must pursue development of additional City recreation facilities.

Specific strategies to increase recreational opportunities in Long Beach include:

- ✓ Developing a new master plan for El Dorado East Park
- ✓ Developing master plans for each community park in the city
- ✓ Developing a plan to address citywide aquatics and pools, and developing Chittick as a major sports area



**STRATEGY 5: DEVELOP FULL SERVICE  
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTERS  
THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

The Department is pursuing the strategy of developing four to five large multi-generational Community Recreation Centers. These centers would likely be 40,000 to 60,000 square feet in size, and would be located throughout the City based on the population to be served. Each facility would have a variety of facilities, including pools, gymnasiums, exercise areas, sports courts, classrooms, and community rooms. These centers could also provide designated space for groups such as teens and seniors, replacing the current approach of switching the same space between various uses.

Larger recreation centers are much more cost effective to operate and can generate a substantial amount of revenue to offset operational costs. These centers can serve more age groups in one setting and at a cost per person that is significantly less than current levels.

Specific strategies to develop full service Community Recreation Centers include:

- ✓ Identifying potential center sites
- ✓ Clearly defining community needs in the areas to be served
- ✓ Identifying potential development partners,
- ✓ Acquiring necessary funding
- ✓ Developing preliminary design concepts
- ✓ Communicating plans to community members and generating local support
- ✓ Managing the construction of these centers.